Shidima
image
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JAN
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CANADA
Vol. 1 Chapter 1 : Outlaws Return

image comics presents

SHIDIMA

created by PAT LEE and ADRIAN TSANG

writer	Adrian Tsang
pencils	Arnakin
backgrounds	Jeff Woo
background assists	James Raiz
inks	Ramil Sunga
colors	Shane Law
color assist	Pierre Theriaulp
	Ramil Sunga
	Alan Wang
letterer - CGX	Simon Yeung
graphic design	Talent Pun
editor-in-chief	Roger Lee
production mgr.	Derek Choo-Wing
director of sales	Amelia Lo
film output	Kell-o-graphics
special thanks to	Erik Sander
for image comics	Jim Valentino, publisher
	Anthony Bozzi, director of marketing
	Brent Braun, director of production

Chapter 1 / Outlaws Return

This issue is dedicated to Anthony Bozzi for all his support.

www.dreamwaveprod.com

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IRC.CYBERTOON.NET - #COMIC-SCANS - SCANNED BY OTK

This should be easy. No ordinary fighter can swing a weapon that big fast enough to parry the kind of attack that I can dish out.
But this bastard moves like a panther--
--and that axe isn't half as clumsy as I'd like to believe.
...no idea which way he'll go when I make my move.
One thing's for sure- This is going to hurt.

I come in at a sharp angle trying to get him to commit to a defense.

No such luck.

The pocket of dead air I leave behind my attack cuts wind resistance down just enough to allow him to move fast enough to get behind my guard--

Too late for anything fancy.

I just brace my knees and jump like my life depends on it.

At least someone is getting a kick out of this.

IRC.CYBERTON.COM.NET - #COMIC-SCANS - SCANNED BY OTK

By the time I land, Kazuo's already on the counterattack.
Remember the 'hurt' I was talking about?
THWAK!
OOF
THESE LAST MONTHS ARE SHOWING IN YOUR TECHNIQUE-IT'S IMPROVED.

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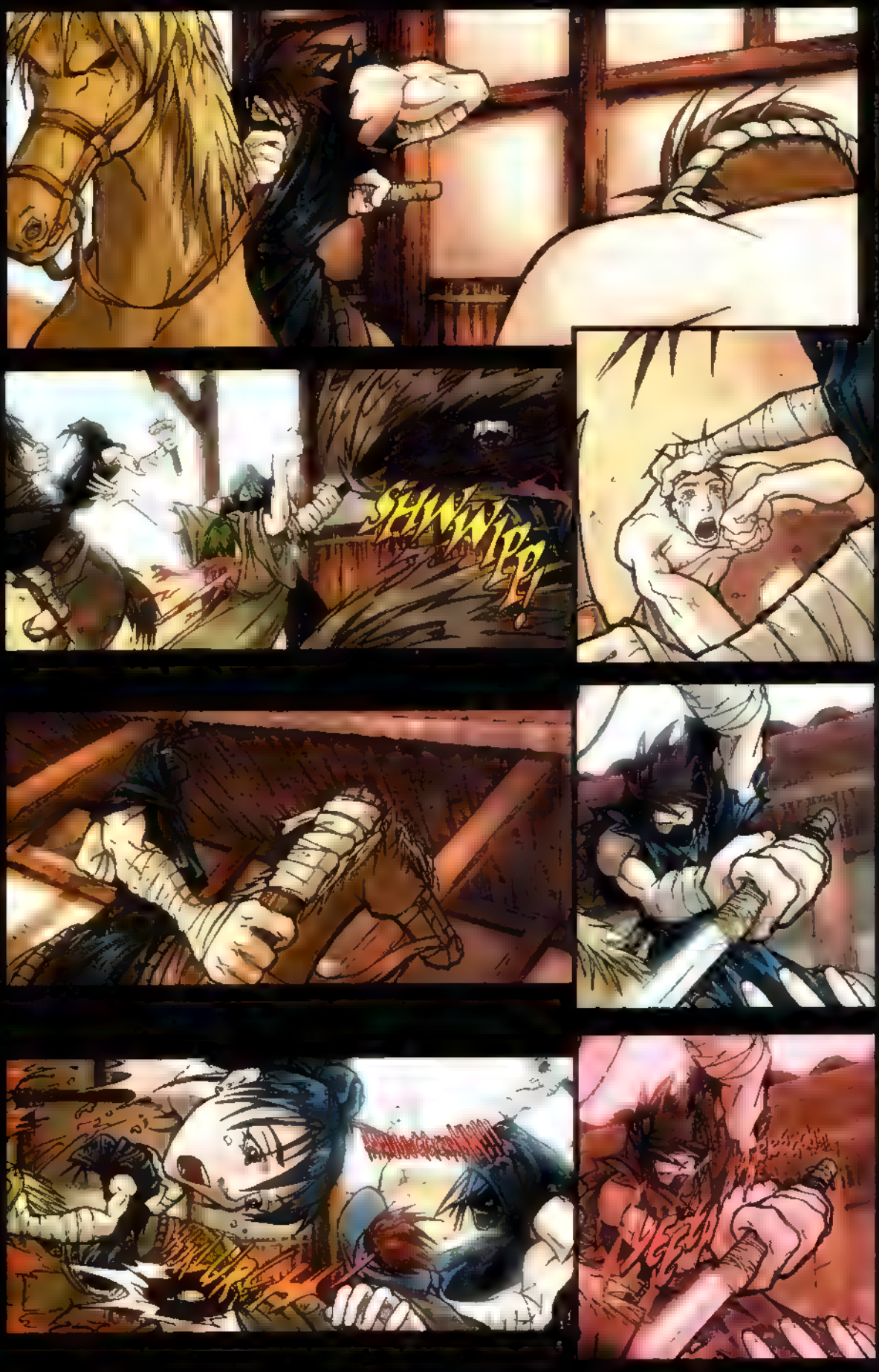

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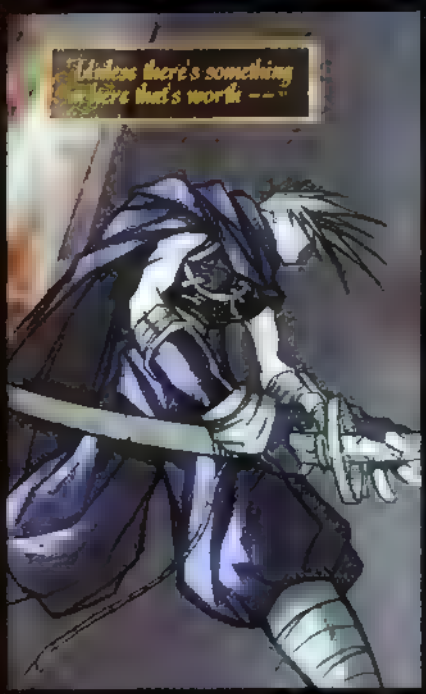

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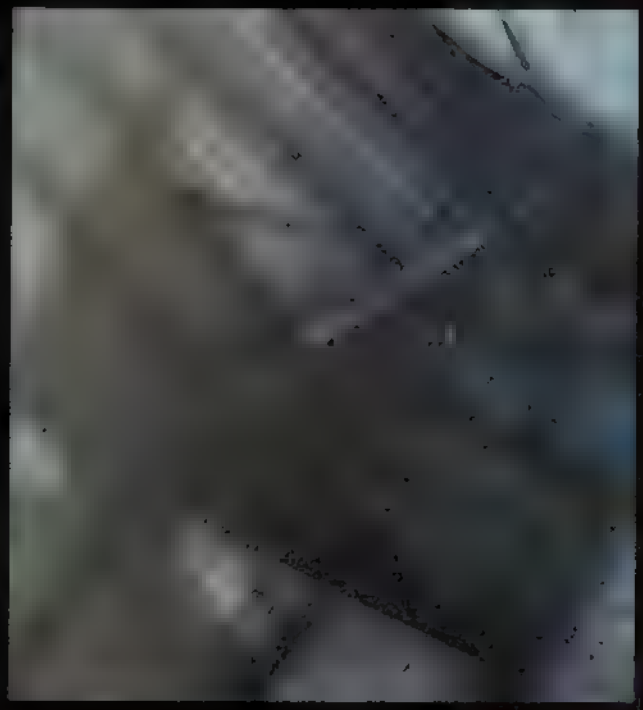

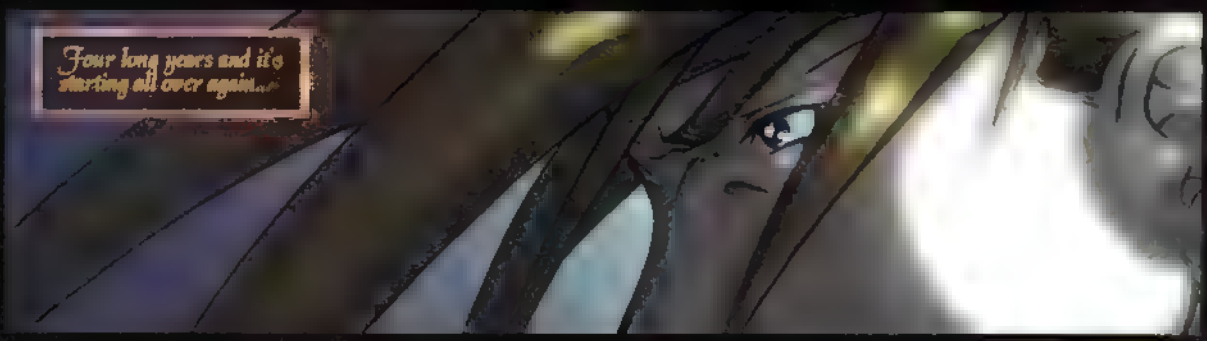

IRC:CYBERTONIUM.NET #COMIC-SCANS SCANNED BY OTK

Four years earlier...
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE ACTUALLY PULLED IT OFF! THIS IS A GOOD OMEN YOU KNOW, OUR FIRST BATTLE AGAINST THE EMPIRE AND IT'S A COMPLETE SUCCESS!
DON'T START CELEBRATING YET! TAKETO WE'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO AND THE DAYS ARE GOING TO GET BLOODIER BEFORE THEY GET BRIGHTER
BAH! IS EVERYONE FROM WHERE YOU'RE FROM AS CHEERY AS YOU ARE?
SAY WHAT YOU WILL. BUT MARK MY WORDS! IN UNDER A YEAR, JYDORI WILL TAKE HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE ON THE THRONE, AND THIS WILL ALL BE OVER AND DONE WITH!
AND NOW WE'VE GOT ENOUGH WEAPONS AND MONEY - IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE PEOPLE WILL BE FREE!
TAKETO'S HEART'S IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT LEAST. COME ON ALDARAN, WE FOUGHT HARD TODAY. WE'VE EARNED A LITTLE TIME FOR CELEBRATION. EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT FINE, YOU'LL SEE
I hope so. I certainly hope so.

IRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET :: COMIC-SCANS :: SCANNED BY OTK

IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL THEN WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?
YOU KNOW WHY I'M STILL HERE.
I.. I HAVE TO GO.
KAMEKO...

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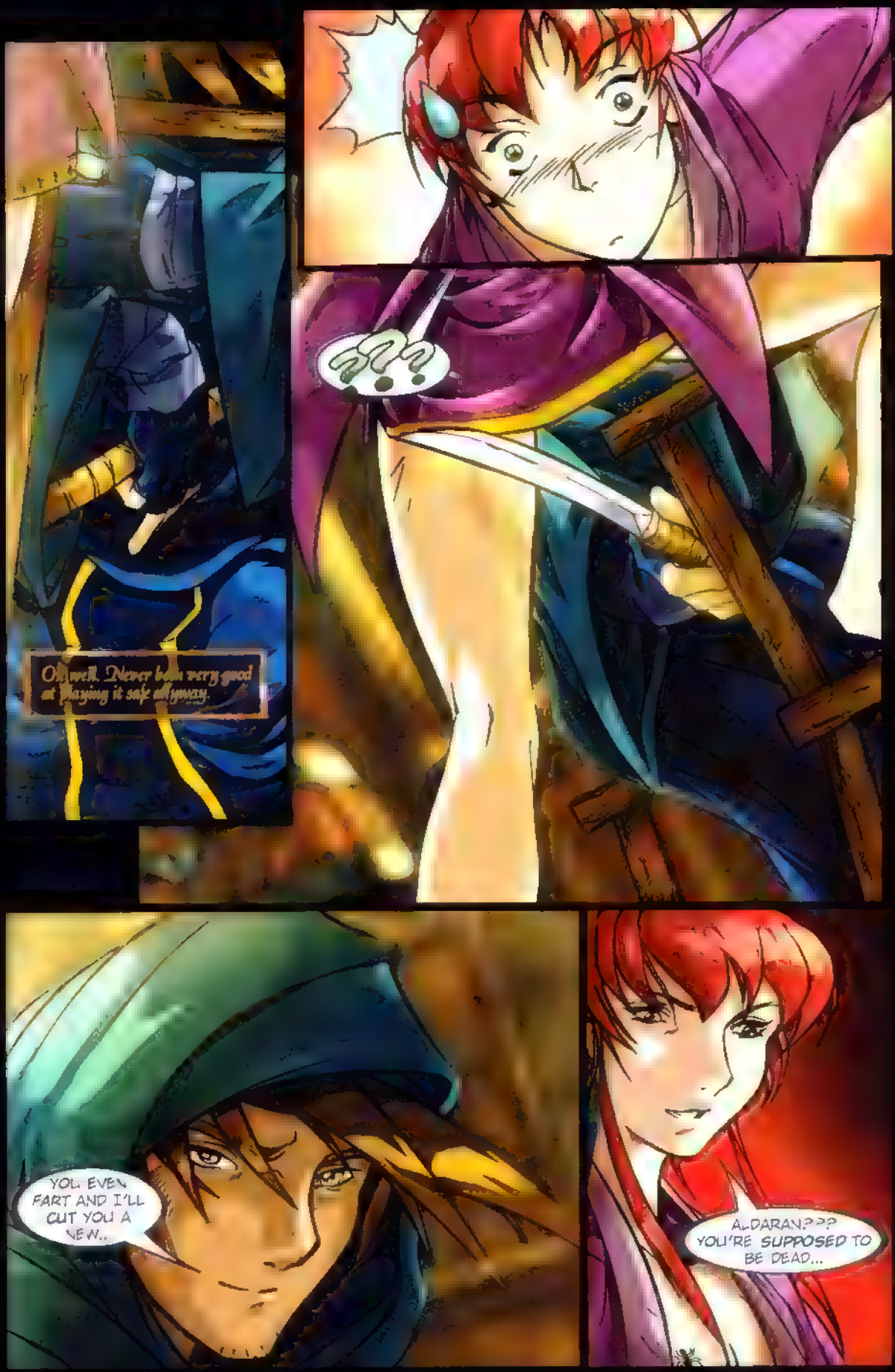

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IRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET - #COMIC-SCANS - SCANNED BY OTK

I'VE GOT A **BETTER** IDEA: DROP THE KNIFE AND BEHAVE, AND THEN I'LL DECIDE HOW LONG I'M GOING TO LET YOU LIVE.

To Be Continued.

WWW.CYBERTONIUM.NET • COMIC-SCANS • SCANNED BY OTK

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Shidima Vol.1 Chapter 2 : Reunion

image comics presents

SHIDIMA

created by PAT LEE and ADRIAN TSANG

writer	Adrian Tsang
pencils	Warui Namekemono
inks & colors	Ramil Sunga
colors	Shane Law
	Alan Wang
	Yvonne Poon
	Talent Pun
flats	Erik Sander
letterer & CGX	Simon Yeung
graphic design	Talent Pun
editor in-chief	Roger Lee
production mgr.	Derek Choo-Wing
director of sales	Amelia Lo
film output	Kell-o-graphics
or image comics	Jim Valentino, publisher
	Anthony Bozzi, director of marketing
	Brent Braun, director of production

image

DW

CGX

Chapter 2 / Reunion

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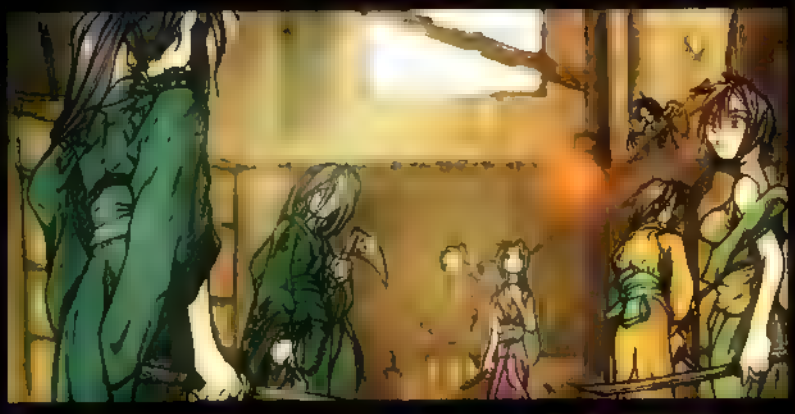
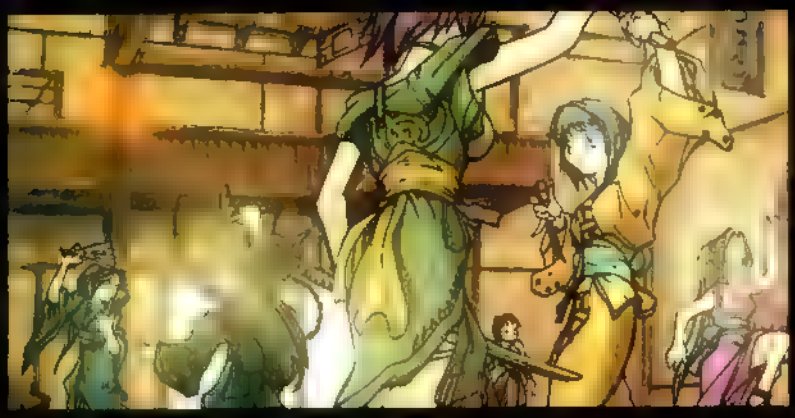




RGOYBERTONIUM.NET ~ COMIC-S

RC.CYBERTONIUM.NET > *COMIC-SCANS - SCANNED BY OTK

YOUR REPORT.
WE QUELLED THE UPRISING IN UEDA MY LORD.* BUT MURA KOGITSUNE WAS NOT AMONG THE PEASANTS.
MY SPIES BELIEVE THAT HE IS STILL IN THE PROVINCE SOMEWHERE EMPEROR.
YESTERDAY I RECEIVED A REPORT THAT A MAN MATCHING KOGITSUNE'S DESCRIPTION WAS SEEN MOVING THROUGH THE CAPITAL.
SEVERAL OF THE MAKKURA TRIED TO CAPTURE HIM--

IRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET :: COMIC-SCANS :: SCANNED BY OTK

IN FACT, IT WAS THE OUTLANDER THAT ENABLED US TO CRUSH THE ADASHI SO THOROUGHLY. HE ALONG WITH THOSE I MENTIONED WERE TO BE KILLED AS WELL--
THE ONLY ONES LEFT THAT WE ARE AWARE OF IS THE CONSORT OF THEIR DECEASED LEADER, FOUR ZIRUSHI FROM THE NORTHERN PROVINCES-AND AN OUTLANDER OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN.
--BUT THEY ESCAPED THE NIGHT TANSHO IKEDA DISAPPEARED.*
THE OUTLANDER SHOULD BE THE EASIEST TO LOCATE-IF HE'S STILL ALIVE. I UNDERSTAND HIS HAIR IS A MOST REMARKABLE SHADE OF YELLOW

COMIC-SCANS - SCANNED BY OTK

IRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET :: #COMIC-SCANS :: SCANNED BY

THE HOW I WILL LEAVE TO YOU..
ANOTHER TIME MITSURO..
HE WILL BETRAY US AS SOON AS HE PERCEIVES YOUR POSITION TO BE IN WEAKNESS MY LORD. HE SEEKS ONLY TO MAKE HIS MARK THE REALM OF THE SWORD.
AND YOUR LOYALTY MITSURO, IS TO THE EMPIRE, AND OUTSTRIPS YOUR FEALTY TO EVEN ME
I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE HAKARA'S LOYALTIES LAY-JUST AS I KNOW YOUR OWN. CONCENTRATE ON THE TASK AT HAND MITSURO, OR HAKARA WILL BE THE LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES...

SCANNED BY OTF

I DON'T THINK YOU HEARD ME.
ARISA!
LET HER GO!!!
CRACK
CHIK!

FROM BERTONIUM.NET - COMIC-SCANS - SCANNED BY DT K

IRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET * COMIC-SCANS * SCANNED BY OTK

YOU CAN CONSIDER THIS PAYMENT FOR BEING SO EAGER TO TELL ME WHAT I NEEDED TO KNOW
SSSSSS
TO YOUR HEALTH.
....

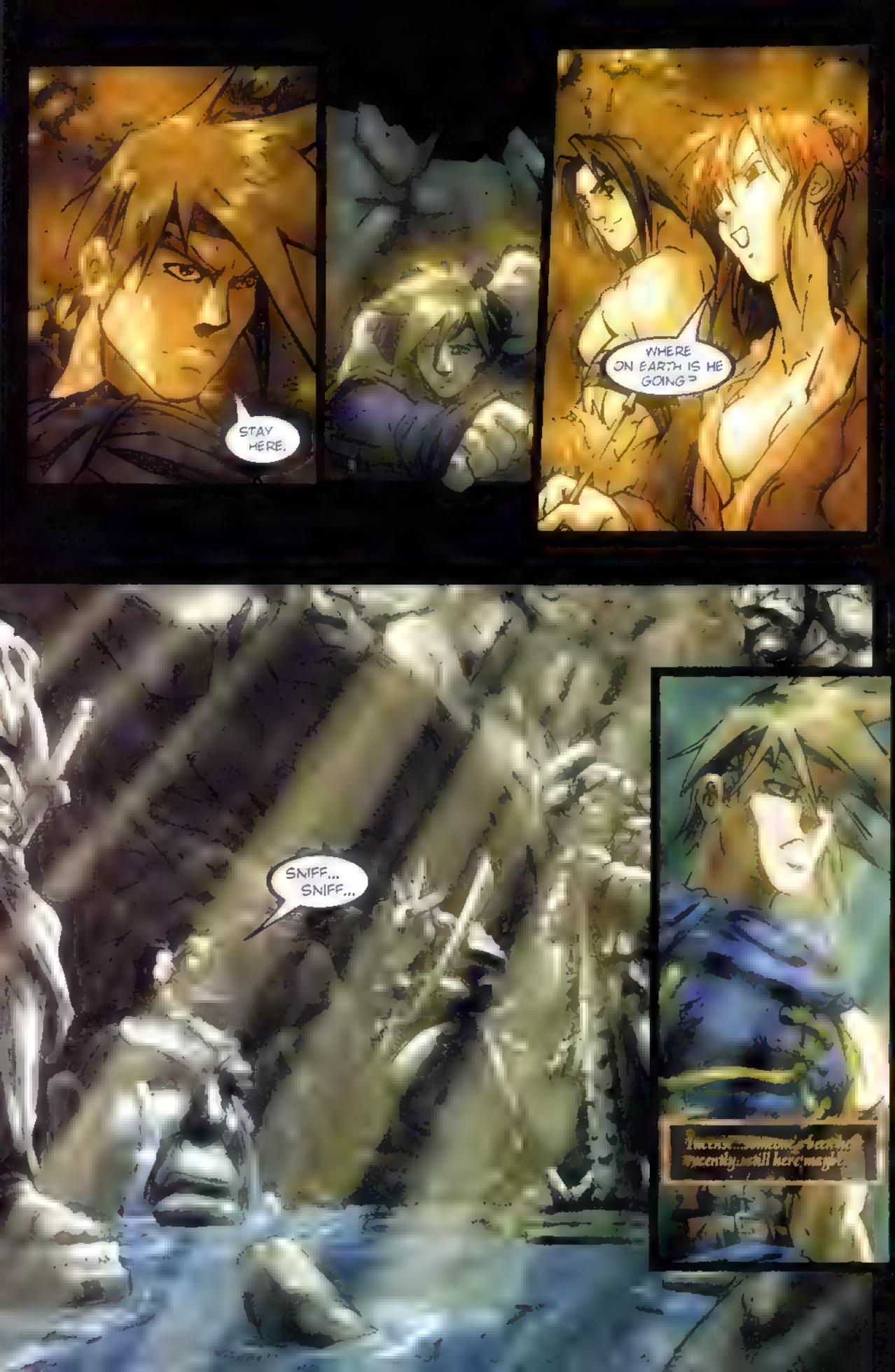
* See Shidonna Issue #1 for details.

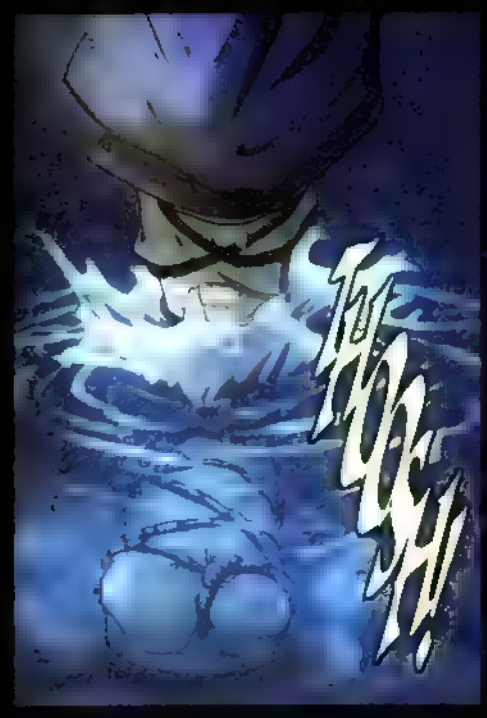
IRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET ~ #COMIC-SCANS ~ SCANNED BY OTK

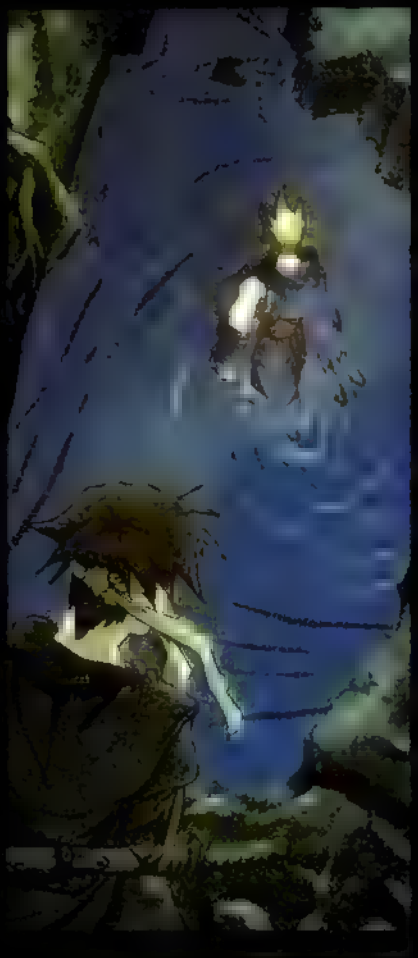
KLUNG!
IF WE BECOME SEPERATED, HEAD FOR THE FOREST TO THE NORTH.
THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM...
SLURGH!!!

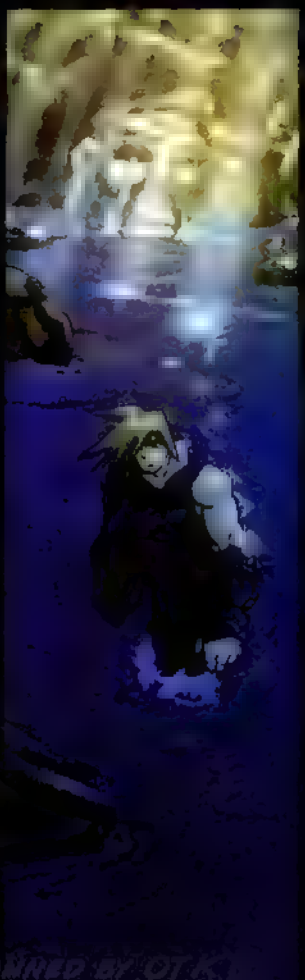
IRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET - COMIC-SCANS - SCANNED BY OTK

DEATH TO THE EMPIRE!!!


STAY HERE.
WHERE ON EARTH IS HE GOING?
SNIFF... SNIFF...







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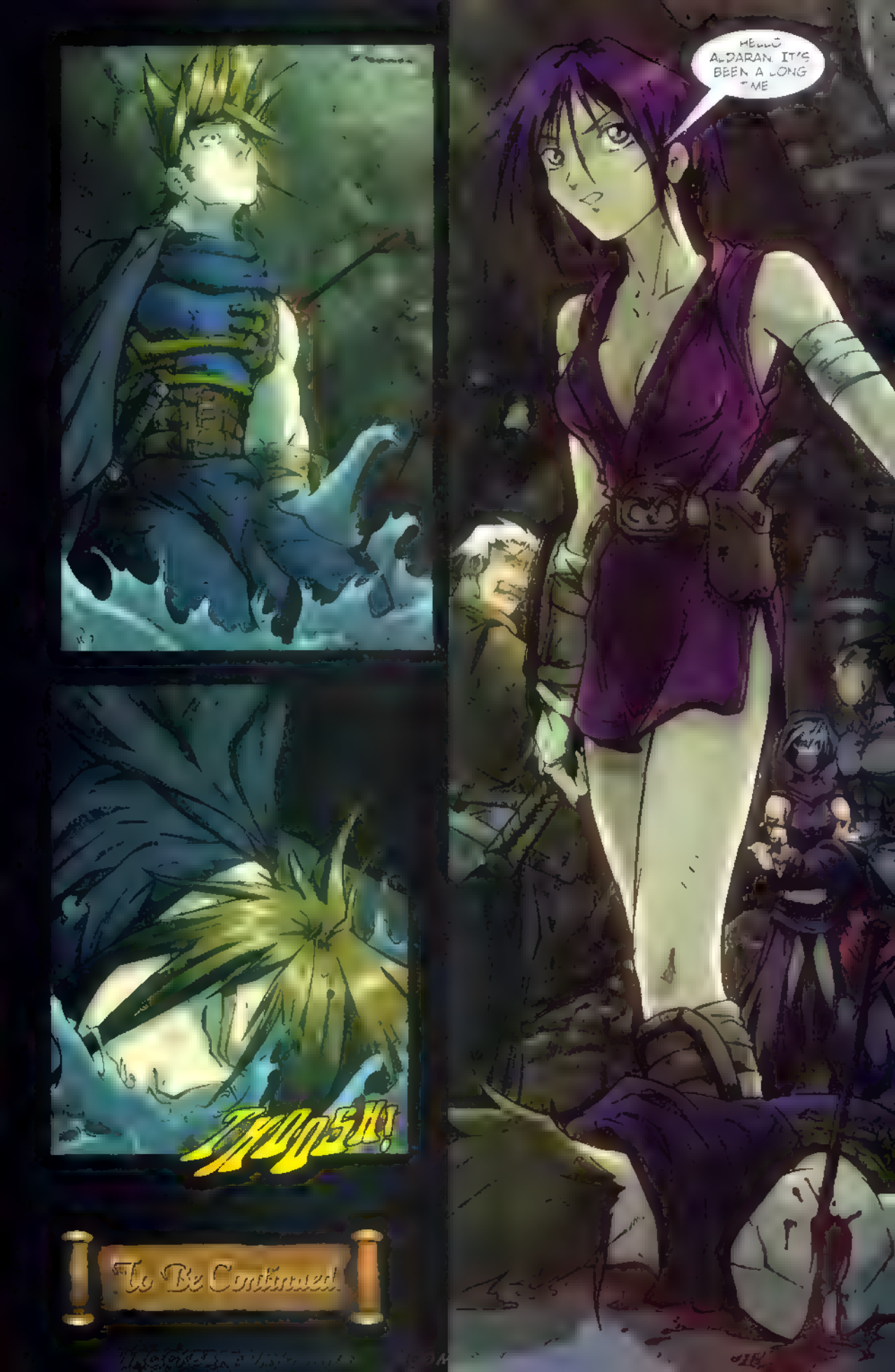
HELLO ALDARAN. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
WOOSH!
To Be Continued

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CANADA
Shidima Vol. 1 Chapter 3: Embers of Rebellion

image comics
presents

SHIDIMA

created by Pat Lee and Adrian Tsang

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inks Ramil Sunga
Rob Armstrong
Alvin Lee
colors Yvonne Boon
[illegible] assists Angela Tsang
Alan Wang
lighting FX Pat Lee
flats Erik Sander
lettering/CGX Simon Yeung

graphic design Talent Pun
[illegible]-chief Roger Lee
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director of sales Amelia Lo
film output Kelly [illegible]

[illegible] Jim Valentino, publisher
Anthony [illegible], director of marketing
Brent Braun, director of production

3 / Embers of Rebellion

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Sometimes...
I still dream of her sometimes.
A silly fantasy, really.
ALDARAN
WAKE UP.
She could have loved me once, I think--
I SAID WAKE UP.
If you can believe it.

Not that I have ever given her any reason for a change of heart...
WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S DOING HERE?
HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD.
BUT IF HE'S BEEN ALIVE ALL THIS TIME HOW COULD
WHAT DOES IT MATTER? NOW THAT HE'S HERE - WE CAN KILL HIM OURSELVES
WAIT. I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING HERE. IF HE'S WORKING FOR THE EMPIRE AGAIN, WE COULD HAVE A PROBLEM.
ALL THE MORE REASON TO KILL HIM.
UHHH
LEAVE ME WITH HIM.
I SAID LEAVE.

The searing pain on my neck brings me back to reality... a reality where the next words that come out of my mouth are going to be very important...
I SEE KARASU AND ENJIRO SURVIVED, THAT'S TOO BAD
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ALDARAN?
Need to buy myself a little time, find out what's going on before Karasu or the Objective others decides to make good on his threat...
WHO ARE THE OTHER TWO? DESERTERS FROM THE IMPERIAL GUARD?
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR GAMES ALDARAN. TELL ME WHY YOU'RE HERE? WHY NOW?
I WAS ABOUT TO ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION.

DAMN YOU ALDARAN/ WHY???
YOU KNOW DAMN WELL WHY.
Three Years Earlier

...NET ~ #COMIC-SCANS ~ SCANNED ...

COMIC-SCANS SCANNED BY OTK

SRC.CYBERTONIUM ... OMIC-SCANS - SCANNED BY OTK

TIPPING YOU OFF TO OUR PRESENCE HERE IS ALL JUST A RUSE DESIGNED TO DISTRACT YOU FROM THE REBELLION'S TRUE TARGET.
WHICH IS?
THE LEADER OF THE REBELLION IS HEADED TOWARDS THE PALACE AS WE SPEAK. HE IS ACCOMPANIED BY A SELECT FEW OF THE MOST SKILLED FIGHTERS AT HIS DISPOSAL.
WITH YOU AND HIS PERSONAL GUARD OUT CHASING US, THE EMPEROR WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO STOP THEM ALL.
JYDORI BETRAYED US. I JUST MADE SURE HE DIDN'T GET AWAY WITH IT.
RG.CYBERTO

IRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET - #COMIC-SCANS - SCANNED BY OTK

WE'RE GOING TO THE RENDEZVOUS. KEEP AN EYE ON HIM KARASU.
KEEP AN EYE ON HIM?
HOLD ON, I DON'T THINK I HEARD YOU CORRECTLY-

IRC.BYBERTONIUM.NET - #COMIC-SCANS - SCANNED BY OTK

DON'T TAKE T SO HARD KARASU.
KAMEKO'S ALWAYS HAD A WAY WITH MEN.
IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL ANY BET
WACK!

IRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET » COMIC-SCANS » SCANNED BY OTK

BUT DON'T WORRY--
--YOU WON'T BE ALONE IN HELL FOR LONG...
SHRRIP!
BEFORE THE SEASON TURNS I'LL SEND KAMEKO AND THE EMPEROR HIMSELF TO JOIN YOU.
SPLOOSH
....

IRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET ~ #COMIC-SCANS ~ SCANNED BY OTK

HUFF
HUFF
UM...
STILL ALIVE?
GOOD.
NO!

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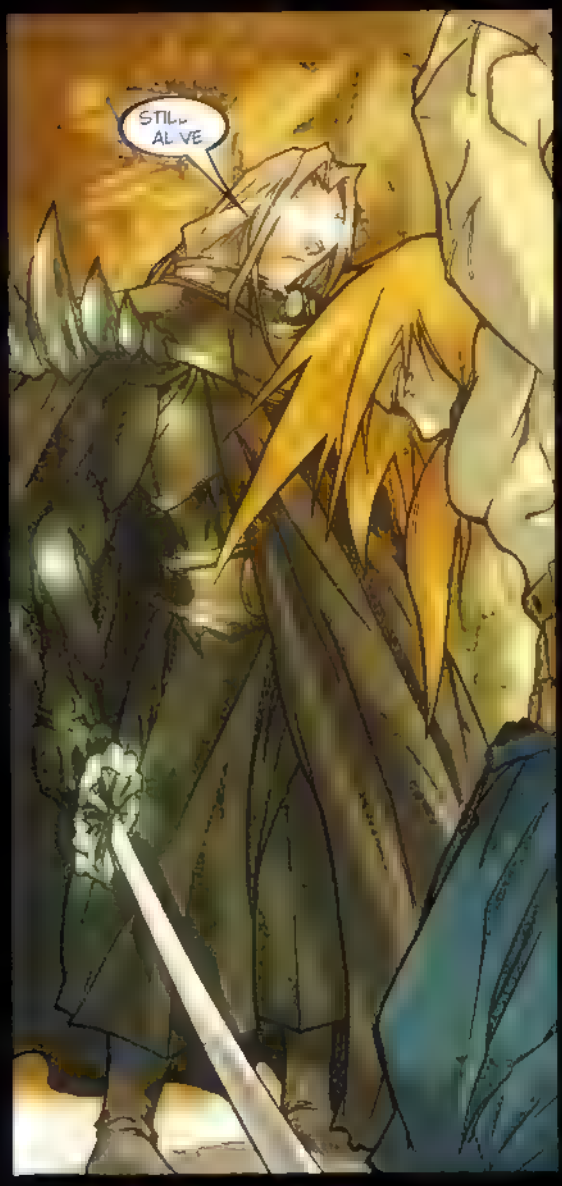

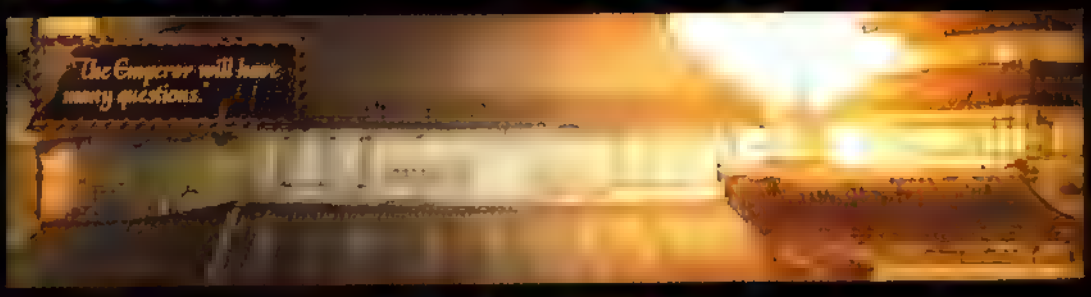

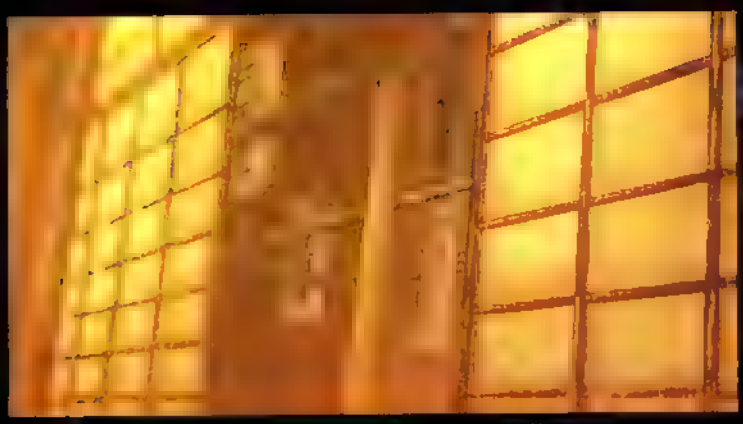

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IRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET ~ #COMIC-SCANS ~ SCANNED BY OTK

GLLLG!
I'VE NO PATIENCE FOR FLIPPANCY OUTLANDER. TELL ME WHAT I WANT TO KNOW
GGGGLLLGG.
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM?
SPEAK UP YOU WORTHLESS @#$%
THWAP!
*...If Kurusu talks, he'll lead the imperials right to Kamcko...
And if Gurukui doesn't let go of me...I'll be dead before I can do anything to stop it...

Shidima
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AUG
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Vol. 1, Chapter 4: Fatal Allies

image comics
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SHIDIMA

created by Pat Lee and Adrian Tsang

writer	Adrian Tsang
pencils	[illegible]
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inks	Ramil Sunga
	Rob Armstrong
	Alvin Lee
colors	Yvonne Poon
color assists	Angelo Tsang
	Alan Wang
lighting FX	Pat Lee
flats	Erik Sander
letterer & CGX	Simon Yeung
graphic design	Talent Pun
editor-in-chief	Roger Lee
[illegible] mgr.	Derek Choo-Wing
director of sales	Amelia Lo
film output	Kell-o-graphics
image comics	Jim Valentino, publisher
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	Brent Braun, director of production

4 / fatal allies

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I'm not going to let that happen.
HOW DO I KNOW YOU WON'T KILL ME?
HE WON'T.
FWOOSH!
CHK!

Karasu on the other hand, it's a whole other story.
TWAK!
If the emperor is surprised at what I just did, he isn't showing it.
I'll KILL YOU, YOU BAS
He's more pissed than hurt. The dagger was never really designed to be thrown at a distance like that.
It's more of an up close and personal weapon.
SHWAK
A'AARGHH!

STOP!
NOT YET.
SHEATH YOUR SWORDS.
The weird sensation of heat on my neck, and cold on my back clues me in on just how close I was to being three neat little pieces of meat on the floor!
I guess Hakara and Mitsura know to shut up and do as their told when the emperor takes that tone.
CHIK!
Surprising. I didn't think anyone could keep those two jackals in line.
CHIK!

YOU WILL ANSWER MY QUESTIONS QUICKLY AND TRUTHFULLY-
I'd better do some fast talking if I want to get out of this alive...
OR YOU WILL REGRET ME SPARING YOUR LIFE
WOMP!
YOU'VE GOT MY UNDIVIDED ATTENTION
THAT MAN WAS ABOUT TO TELL ME THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE REBELS, A GROUP HE IS FOUND TO BE IN DIRECT COOPERATION WITH
FAILING THAT WHEN YOU WERE FOUND HE WAS BUSY AT THE TASK OF KILLING YOU.
SO TELL ME WHY AT GREAT PERIL AT YOUR OWN LIFE, DID YOU KILL HIM TO PROTECT YOUR FORMER CAPTORS?

YOU'RE KIDDING YOURSELF IF YOU THINK HE WOULD HAVE TOLD YOU ANYTHING
KARASU KNEW AS WELL AS EVERYONE IN THIS ENTIRE ROOM HE'D BE DEAD THE MINUTE YOU LEARNED WHAT YOU WANTED TO KNOW.
HE WOULD'VE FED YOU LIES AND BIDED HIS TIME UNTIL HE COULD GET AWAY DOING THINGS MY WAY. AT LEAST I GET TO KILL HIM.
WELL THEN I GUESS NOW THAT THAT'S ALL SETTLED

I'll BE ON MY WAY
THWAK!
YOU ARE AN OUTSIDER HERE. SO I WILL FORGIVE YOU THE INSULT
YOU MAY ATONE BY TELLING ME EXACTLY WHAT YOU WERE DOING WITH THE REBELS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

IF YOUR HANGER-ONS HADN'T SCREWED UP THE JOB THREE YEARS AGO I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
I'M THE ONE WHO HANDED YOU THE REBELS N THE FIRST PLACE REMEMBER?!
At least that part is true...
I'VE BEEN HUNTING DOWN THE LEFTOVERS EVER SINCE YOU CONSOLIDATED YOUR POWER AMONG THE OTHER LORDS.
AND AS I RECALL, I'VE BEEN HAVING JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE LUCK FINDING THEM THAN THESE TWO CHIMPS DID.
* See Earlier Issues Of Shi'ima For Details.
LEAVE US.

That was unexpected!
DO YOU KNOW HOW I BECAME EMPEROR? I WAS NOT BORN TO T LIKE THOSE BEFORE ME.
I was a fighter. A mercenary. Not unlike the 'chimps' as you call them.
I killed for power. To advance the power of others, and to advance my own.
Had you come to Shinima earlier, you and I might have fought alongside one another, just as easily as we could have been enemies.

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SCANNED BY OTK

FROSTBERTONIUKENET + COMIC-SCANS + SCANNED BY OTK

He's probably the most dangerous one of the lot. At least besides the Emperor himself maybe.
THEN IT'S A GOOD THING YOUR OPINION DOESN'T COUNT FOR ANYTHING HERE.
HMPH YOU'RE CORRECT I'M HERE FOR MY SWORD NOT MY NUTS
He's a paranoid psychotic, and a killer, like me. He doesn't play by the rules like Mitsura or Ikeda.
AND IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL YOU'RE GOING TO FIND YOURSELF ON THE WRONG END OF IT
And he's also not nearly as stupid as he looks.
I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE PIECE OF ADVICE HAKARA

IRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET - @COMIC-SCANS - SCANNED BY OTK

The capital city is a dangerous place...
And in this case, a couple of drunk thugs could probably put me down...
#*$8!!

RGOBERTONIUK.NET - COMIC-SCANS - SCANNED BY OTK

*See Last Issue for details.

IRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET - #COMIC-SCANS - SCANNED BY OTK

IRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET - COMIC SCANS - SCANNED BY OTK

TRC.CYBERTONIUM.NET - COMIC-SCANS - SCANNED BY OTK

THE ORIGINAL GOALS OF THE ADASH STILL REMAIN UNFULFILLED. REMEMBER YOU MAY HAVE SAVED HER LIFE-
-BUT I SUSPECT SHE WOULD HAVE RATHER DIED THAN LIVE WITH THE BURDEN YOU LEFT BY ELIMINATING THE LEADERS OF THE OLD REBELLION
BUT IT'S NOT WORTH FIGHTING FOR! THE LORDING OF THE STRONG LEADS TO SUFFERING OF THE WEAK. IT'S INEVIATBLE
YOU WANT TO SAVE KANEKO. SHE DOES NOT WANT TO BE SAVED. SHE WON'T STOP UNTIL THE YITSURO HAVE BEEN OVERTHROWN
WHAT IS THE SOLUTION THEN?

...
IF THE ADASHI COME INTO POWER, SHE'S DONE.
YOU'RE INSANE YOU KNOW THAT?
COME NOW ALDARAN YOU'VE RUINED ANY HOPE OF HER ACHIEVING HER GOALS ONCE TO SAVE HER IS IT REALLY SO STRANGE FOR YOU TO ACTUALLY HELP HER? THEY BOTH, AFTER ALL, ACHIEVE THE SAME ENDS

WE'D BETTER GET MOVING, WE'VE GOT AN EMPIRE TO OVERTHROW--
AND AN EMPEROR TO KILL...

Shidima
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Shidima Vol. 1 Chapter 0 : Exile

image comics

SHIDIMA

created by Pat Lee and Adrian Tsang

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Myrish controlled territory, in what will one day become the capital city of Umtyre, 200 years before the Darklyte Crusade.
I've done this a million times, and I still feel the same every time. The hair on the back of my neck pricks out like cactus needles and there's this wrench in my gut that feels like an elephant is trying to tie square knots out of my insides.
That's the way I like it though. Don't want to feel all warm and fuzzy inside in this line of work.

That prickly feeling on the back of my neck spreads out to my entire body as Jandro works this magic on me.
TURN OFF THAT LIGHT BEFORE SOME MORON WITH A CROSSBOW DECIDES TO TAKE A SHOT AT US!
JUST A MOMENT LONGER ALDARAN, MY SPELL IS ALMOST COMPLETE.
Jandro's a pretty decent mage, the spell he puts on me is a new one, one of his own little pet projects I think.
Neat trick. The crossbow makes absolutely no noise whatsoever as I fire.
It creates a bubble of complete silence around me about the size of a small wagon--
And the thunderclap I timed my shot to, covers the impact.

Funny. Jandro's done this almost as many times as I have. And he's never achieved that haunted look I seem to get every time I look at my own reflection.
If anything, that puppy dog face of his just keeps on getting brighter.
Or maybe it's just that I keep on getting...darker.
Chik!

Things go over almost without a hitch, but he notices something when my 'silence bubble' and I walk away from the window and the ambient noise from outside filters back in.

The expression on his face turns from surprise when he sees me, to [illegible]error when he realizes that for some strange reason, he can't scream.

Jandro's spell is working fine, no need to be subtle.

And it's done. One of the chief nobles in line for the royal succession. I don't even know his name.

By the time they figure out what's happened Jandro and I are already well on our way back to the city.
It takes us another day of hard riding but we finally make it onto the flats and to the gates of the capital.
I let Jandro go pick up our payment and make a report to the men who hired us. He seems to take great pride in it.
But if he thinks he's going to get promoted or some other absurdity like that I'd be happy to shatter his illusions.
Assassins don't get promoted. They get the job done, or they get killed.

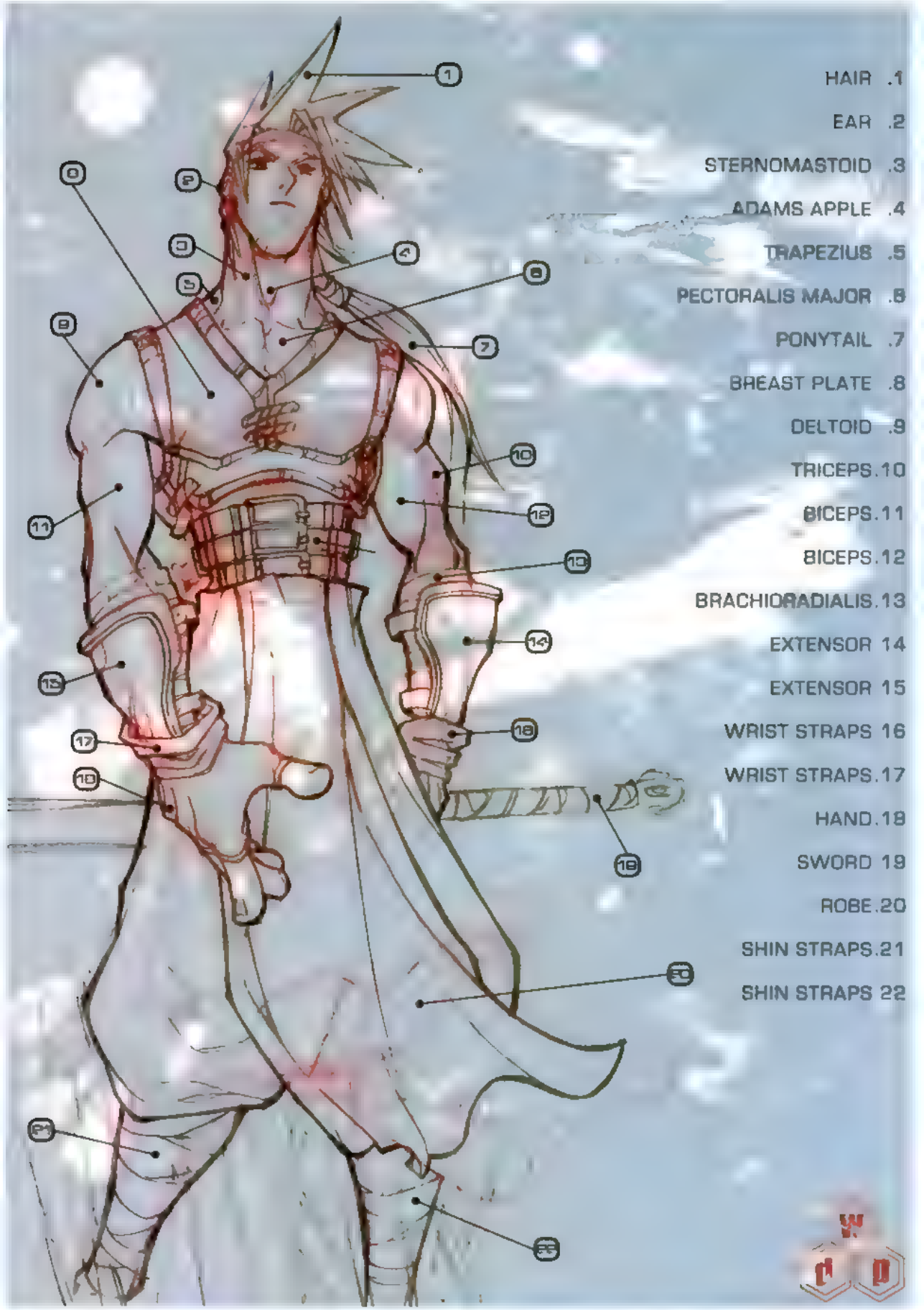
I'm set up to meet Jandro at our usual meeting place.
From the nervous looks of the local help, news of what's happened has made it to the streets.
Later that evening...
AH, ALDARAN, COME SIT, LET US CELEBRATE - A NEW ERA IS BEGINNING.
I THINK I'LL FEEL MORE LIKE CELEBRATING ONCE YOU GIVE ME MY MONEY
SOON ENOUGH, SHARE A DRINK WITH ME FIRST-THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE ENTIRE REGION SHIFTS, WE'RE STANDING AT THE THRESHOLD OF A WEALTHY RETIREMENT.
ONE DRINK.

TO RETIREMENT.
The brandy is good - very good - makes my head feel like the world is closing in.
Takes me a minute to realize it's not the brandy.
It's not the brandy...
Son of a bitch.
The brandy is making my head spin - but the world is closing in all on it's own.

I figure I've got about two minutes of useful consciousness before the poison takes over.
JUST RELAX ALDARAN -- YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A SWORD--WE'RE NOT GOING TO KILL YOU, WE JUST NEED YOU TO COME WITH US.
WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT A SWORD?
He's not taking any chances.
Keeping his eye right on my hands.

Just where I want them...
WOOSH
SKLURCH
AARRGGGHH!!

THWAP!
SKURCH!
THWAK
WOMP!
KRAK!


HAIR .1
EAR .2
STERNOMASTOID .3
ADAMS APPLE .4
TRAPEZIUS .5
PECTORALIS MAJOR .6
PONYTAIL .7
BREAST PLATE .8
DELTOID .9
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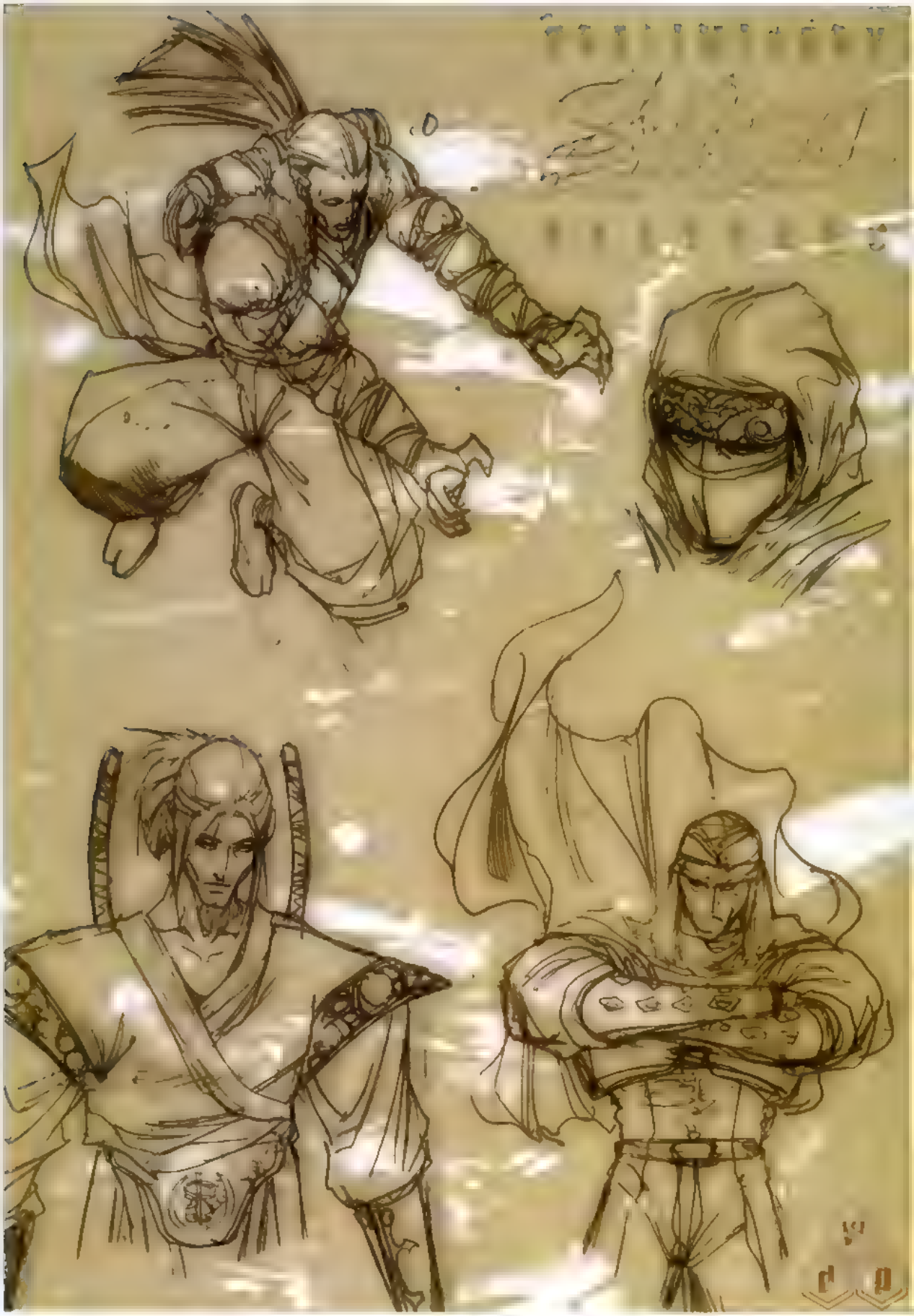
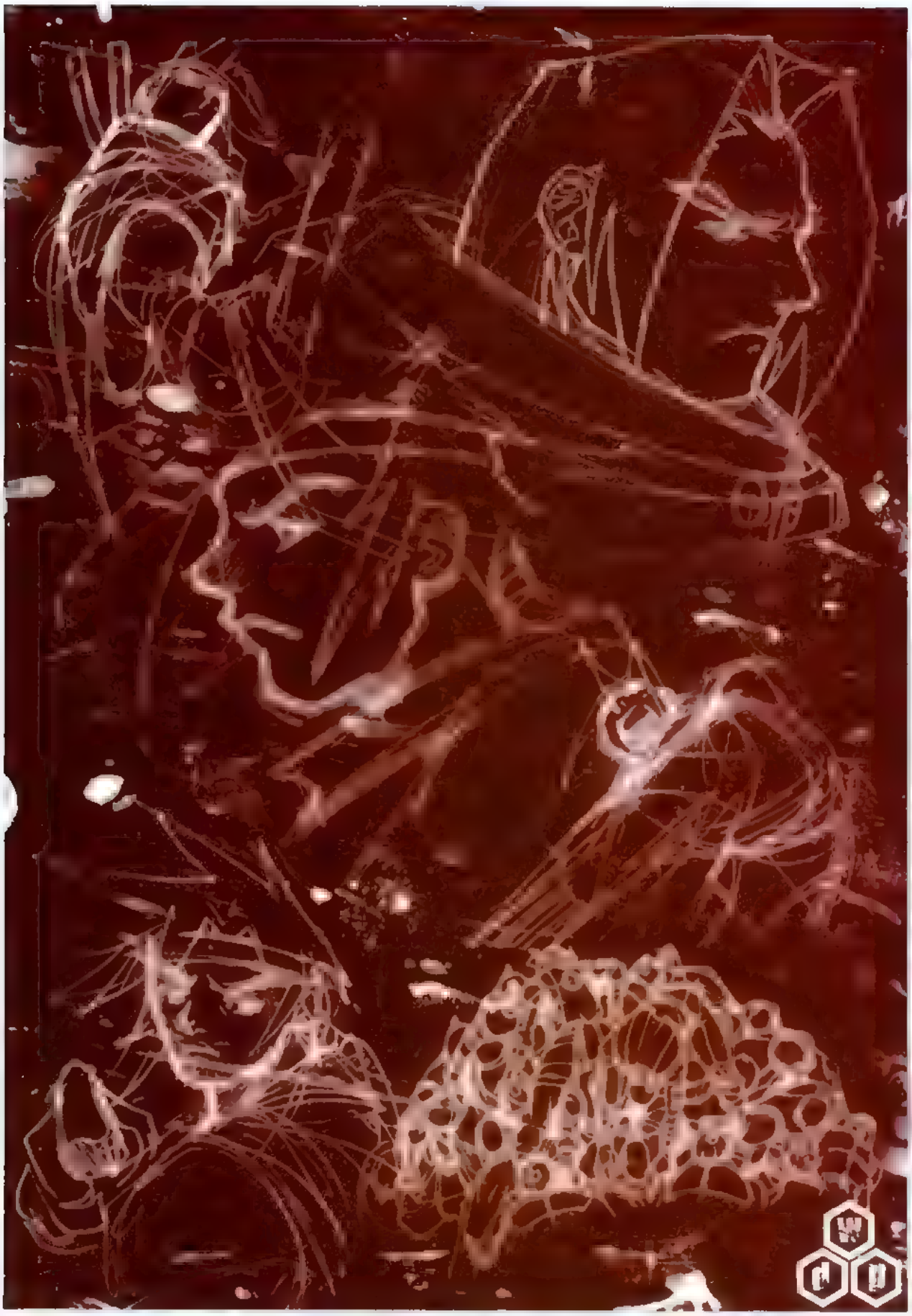
SHIN STRAPS 22





[redacted]

STEP1. LAYOUT
(very important step!)

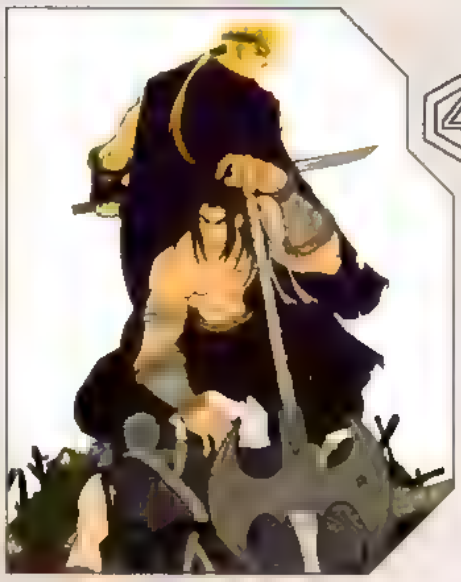
- I usually start off with a general layout that places everything on the page so that I can figure out how the composition will look. Here I can also figure out if the shot will work and how well it flows. Layouts are helpful because you are working on a smaller scale which for some is easier than working on "big paper" (11x17). Plus if you mess up your layout you're not risking as much as if you were to work directly on your final draft. Image boards don't come cheap (:P) !

STEP2. PENCILS

- Once the layout is ready. It is usually blown up on a photocopy machine then transferred to an 11x17 board via light box. I will use either a blue line pencil or a lead pencil to make the transfer. I then proceed to tighten my layout and tweak the design so it fits my vision for the final piece. It takes me anywhere between 5-8 hours pending on the piece and how many coffee breaks I take (:P). Sometimes I'll weight the lines for my own benefit, but usually I leave it to the inker to use their own style and vision to hook it up. Plus I don't want to mess them up with my messed up weights. The penciling stage is where the composition takes it's full form.

- After pencils are completed Ramil comes in and totally makes the page pop out. Ramil takes takes his nib and ink and puts weight on the lines and drops blacks if necessary and cleans up the piece. He also adds his own personal touches through textures and inking tricks. I like to think his style fits very well with mine. I wish I could say more, but he wont reveal the secret of the "Do-Mew Ink Style" (:P)

STEP3. INKS



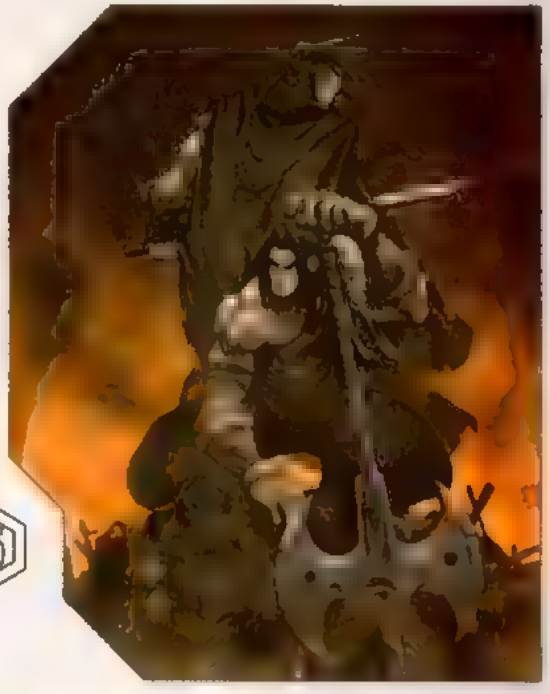
STEP4. FLATS

- Erik will then scan the piece in and after adds the primary layer of colors to the piece. This gives separators direction and a color pallet to work with.

- At this stage the piece is brought to his life through color separation. Cuts and effects are added to give the piece body and richness. Ramil who worked on this particular piece is not only a solid inker and a wicked penciler, he's also one of the sickest colorists in house. (Triple threat! Damn!) He has a lot of weapons in his artillery when it comes to coloring and depending on the piece he will adjust his style to the work. Covers are usually painted on the computer. Through colors we can determine light source, mood and depth. It takes the pencils and inks a step further!

What we are left with is the final product. Thanks for taking the time to read my babble talk and hopefully I gave some of you guys something to chew on! Take care (P).

Lou Kang



STEP5. COLORS

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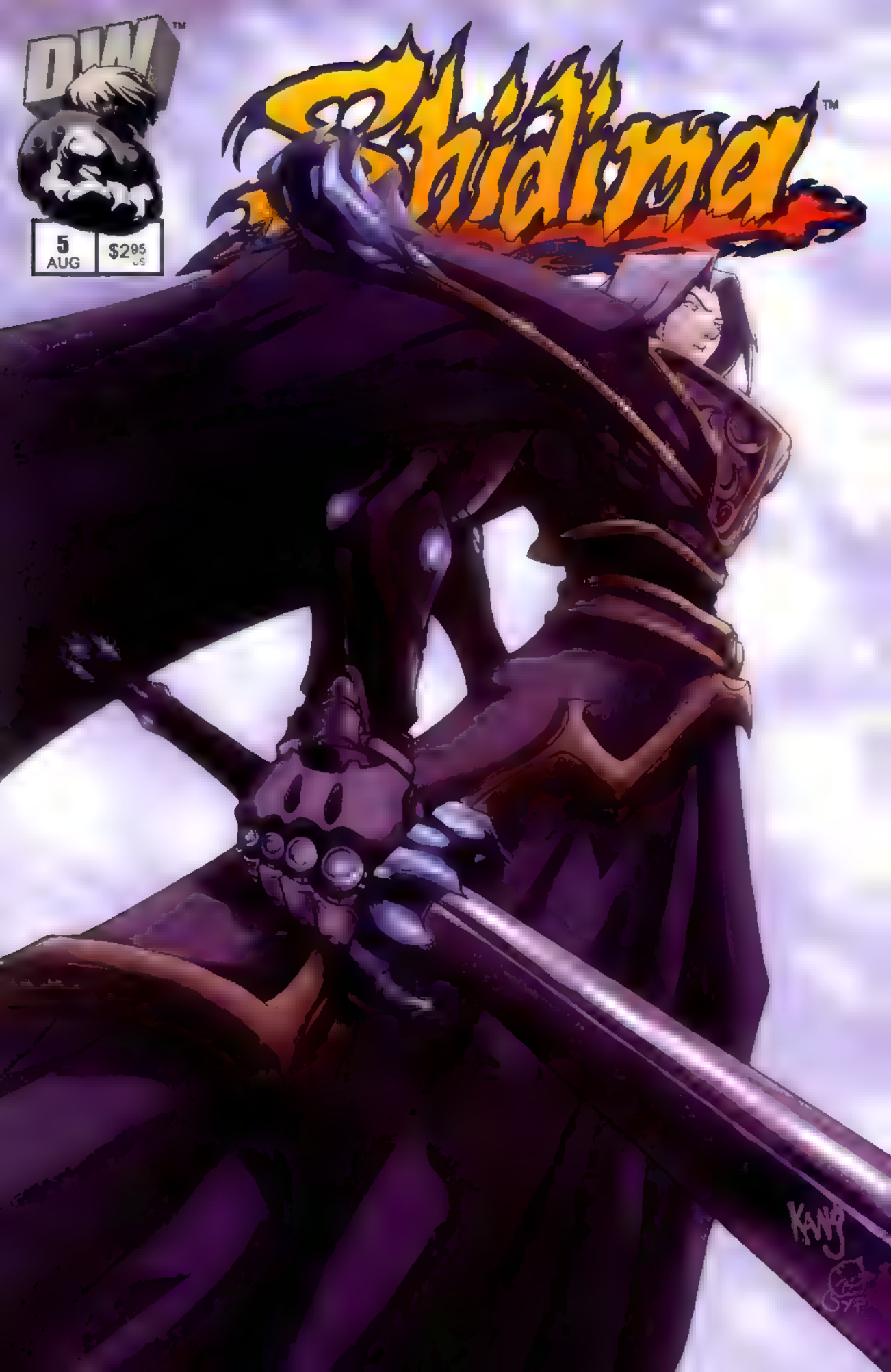
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colors	YVONNE POON
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produced by	ADAM FORTIER

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I HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING
After Hakara burned her place down, her stake in the future leaders of the empire just got real personal.
Only problem is I don't think they'll be quite as eager as she is.

AH MINAKO AND ALDARAN! IS IT? TO WHAT DO I OWE THE PLEASURE OF THIS VISIT?
I HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAKARA DID TO YOUR PLACE MINAKO - DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE SURE ALL OF YOUR CUSTOMERS GET THE WEAPONS THEY'RE LOOKING FOR.
CUT THE CRAP GOYO THE OUTLANDER'S GOT SOMETHING TO SAY
I'M LISTENING
I HAVE A BUSINESS PROPOSITION FOR YOU

HELP THE ADASHI CLAN OVERTHROW THE EMPIRE.
HA!
AND WHAT CAN YOU POSSIBLY OFFER ME TO DO THAT?
SIMPLE, YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CHOICE. IN FOUR DAYS THE TIME MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL BEGINS, ALL THE NOBLE LORDS ARE COMING. GURAKAI IS GOING TO LEGITIMIZE HIS CLAIM TO THE THRONE.
THEIR PERSONAL GUARDS, THEIR RETAINERS, MILITIA, THEY'RE ALL GOING TO BE ABSORBED INTO THE ARMY WITH A CONCENTRATED FORCE LIKE THAT. YOU THINK THEY'RE GOING TO JUST ALLOW YOU TO KEEP OPERATING?
THE FESTIVAL WILL BE THE BEST TIME TO HIT HIM, AND WE'RE GOING TO HIT HIM WITH EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT

I'M A BUSY MAN, SO I'LL BE BLUNT: I DON'T BELIEVE YOU. AND I SURE AS HELL DON'T TRUST YOU.
YOU BETRAYED THE ADASHI YOURSELF BEFORE, AND THE DAY AFTER YOU COME WALTZING OUT OF THE IMPERIAL PALACE YOU COME IN HERE AND YOU TELL ME YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU HELP THE ADASHI OVERTHROW THE EMPIRE?
HISTORY WAS NEVER MY STRONG POINT I'M MORE A STUDENT OF CURRENT EVENTS. RIGHT NOW THINGS ARE DIVIDED, BUT ONCE THE OTHER NOBLES START FALLING IN LINE, GURAKAI CAN'T AFFORD TO HAVE ANYONE OPENLY CHALLENGING THE IMPERIAL RULE.
DAYS, YOU CAN EITHER HELP, OR YOU CAN SIGN YOUR OWN DEATH WARRANT.
IF YOU WANT TO HELP, MAKE AS MUCH OF A STIR AT THE FESTIVAL AS POSSIBLE.
WE'RE GOING AFTER HIM EITHER WAY

You lied to him.
Only about my involvement with the Adashi. They're going to make a play for him at the festival. It's their best chance.
During the rebellion we figured our best chance at killing the emperor was to get him outside the palace in the city while his guards aren't defending him.
Obviously, that didn't work, so this time, we're going to bring the city to him. In four days there's going to be a riot.
But what do you hope to gain? He didn't even believe you.
Several hours later.
He doesn't need to believe me. He knows I'm right, all he needs is a reason to think the Adashi can actually pull it off--
--and we're going to give it to him...
Minako manages to hire a couple of 'friends' on the way to Mitsuru's estate to give us a hand.
I wonder if they know what they're getting into. They're ready to find out...

NO GUARDS. VERY CONFIDENT OF HIM SO FAR AWAY FROM THE CAPITAL.
NOT REALLY, AT LEAST IF YOU BELIEVE THE STORIES ABOUT HIS SWORDSMANSHIP
QUIET! LET'S MOVE IN CLOSER
THHHPP

#$@^
WAIT!
FOR YOUR SAKE, I HOPE YOU ARE ALL BETTER AT KILLING THAN YOU ARE AT STEALTH.

* See Shidima Issue #1 for details.

IT'S A TRAP.
IMPERIAL SOLDIERS!
ENOUGH TALK! THIS MURDERER DIES NOW!!!

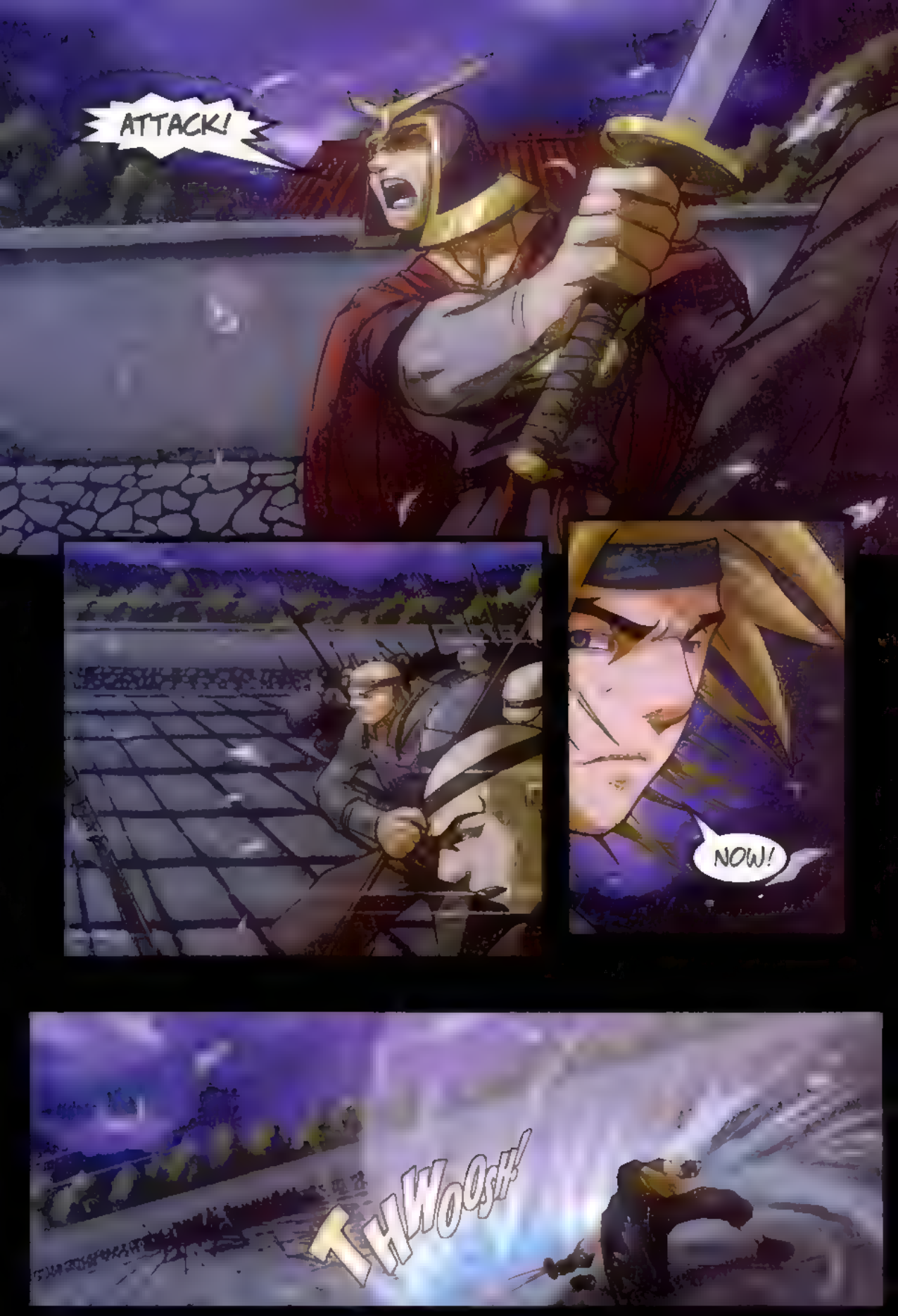
WHOOSH!
ASHH!

YAAAAH!
ZANG!
AAAAAAAH!!!
KRAACK!

YOU HAVE IKEDA'S BLADE.
Let us see if whether or not you've learned how to use it.
LOOK OUT!

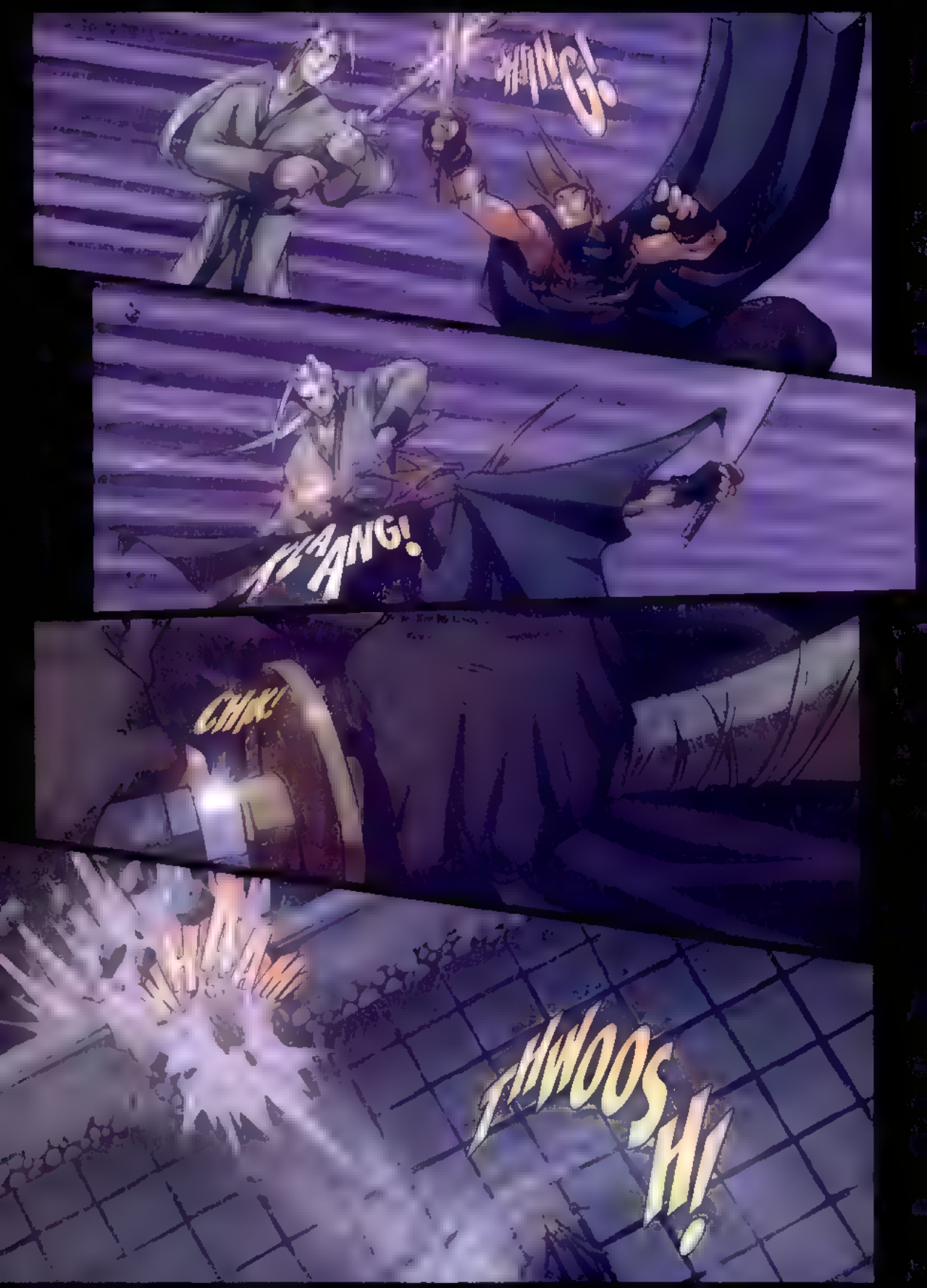
SHRACK!
BOOM!
AAAAH!

SLASH
YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF FRIENDS OUTLANDER
THIS IS SUICIDE! HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIGHT HIM???
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT WE ARE BEING GIVEN A CHOICE.

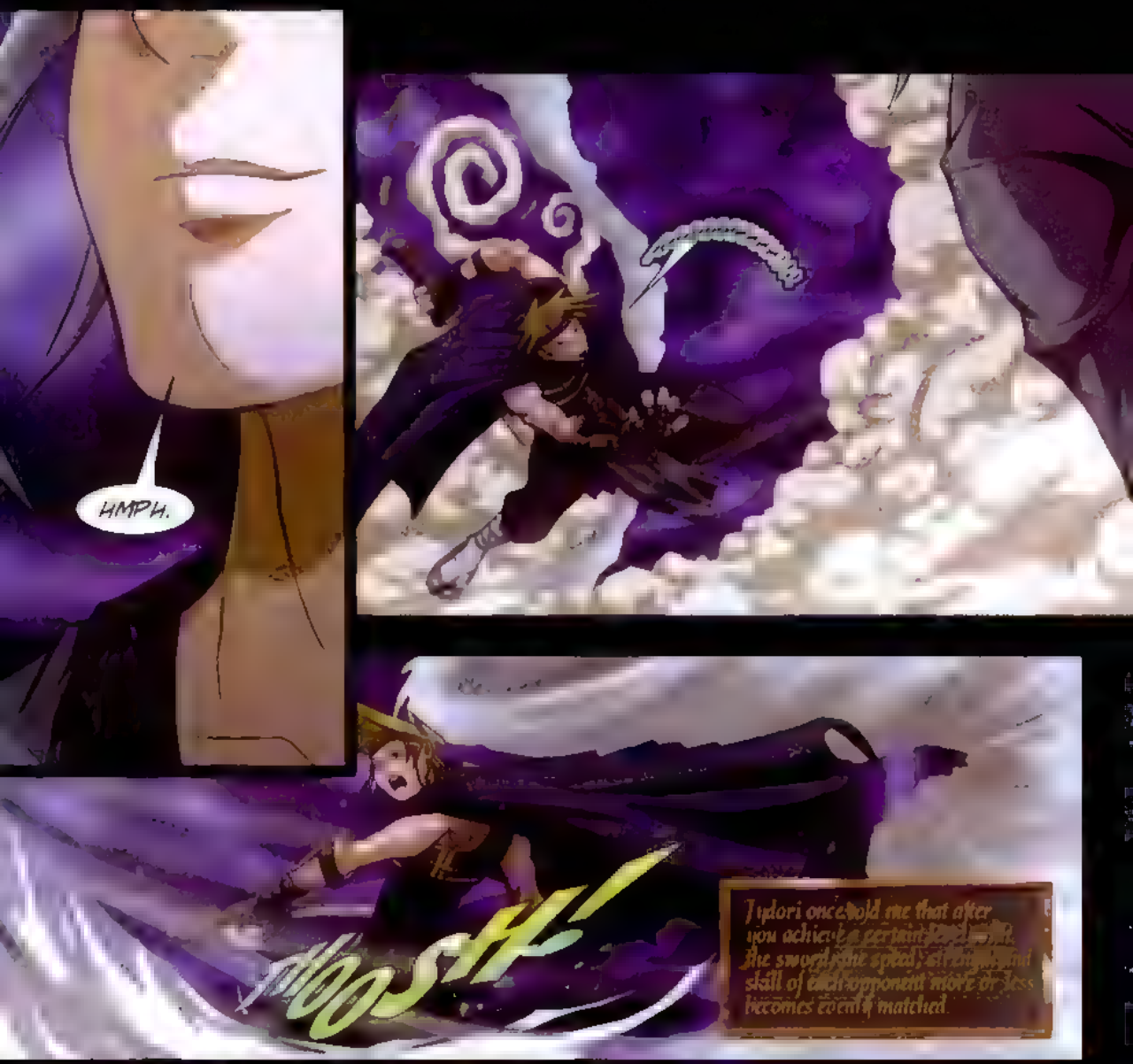

ATTACK!
NOW!
THWOOSH!

WOOOSH!!
SKAASH!!

EITHER YOUR COMPANIONS HAVE GREAT FAITH IN YOU, OR THEY ARE SMART ENOUGH TO STAY OUT OF MY WAY.
COME ON. WE'LL HOLD OFF THE SOLDIERS. ALDARAN CAN TAKE CARE OF MITSURA!
Come, let us see if you've learned to use that stolen blade of yours.


HING!
KLAANG!
CHIK!
THWOOSH!

AN INTERESTING TECHNIQUE YOU'VE DEVELOPED PARRY WITH ONE SWORD, AND A FULL ON ATTACK WITH THE OTHER BUT IT'S ULTIMATELY JUST A MASK FOR YOUR OWN INEPTITUDE.
IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE BARELY MANAGING TO CONTROL THE POWER OF THE SWORD. WITHOUT THE PROPER TRAINING, YOUR BODY CAN'T HANDLE THE STRESS.
EACH TIME YOU USE THE SWORD, IT'S STRESS WILL TEAR APART YOUR BODY I WONDER--
--CAN YOU SURVIVE ANOTHER ATTACK?
LETS. FIND. OUT


HMPH.
WHOOSH!
Tydori once told me that after you achieve a certain level in the sword, the speed, strength and skill of each opponent more or less becomes evenly matched.

Once that level has been achieved, each encounter becomes a mental battle more than a physical.
THK
THK

YOU DISAPPOINT ME ALDARAN.
In a fight like this, deception is as powerful a weapon as a sword....
I EXPECTED A BETTER FIGHT FROM THE MAN WHO KILLED IKEDA.
...and Mitsura's about to be on the receiving end of it.
THAT'S FUNNY
SHRIIIK!!
SO DID HE..

YOU KILLED HIM..!
AND HAKARA AND THE EMPEROR ARE NEXT...

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inks	ERIK SANDER
colors	YVONNE POON
	SHAUN CURTIS
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The entire city is locked down pretty tight. The only guests the emperor wants in the palace today are the other feudal lords.

Even the lords themselves were only allowed to come in by boat, with only a handful of their retainers. No one wants any trouble today. Except for me that is...

Goyo and his mercenaries si[illegible] as soon as [illegible] if the [illegible] between [illegible] under [illegible] moses are [illegible]

Half his men are with me, [illegible] other are out in the streets busy [illegible] fires to divert [illegible] palace.

Most of the local garriso[illegible] already out in the streets t[illegible] to track them down.

A lot of them won't be coming back—

* See last issue.

--but even without the garrison, Gurakai's ready for trouble, even if you could get past the guards and to the emperor, you'd never get back out.
Call me me romantic, but marcyrdom wasn't the kind of death I had in mind.
Which brings us back to the ship...
Remind me to thank Gurakai for being such an untrusting leader-
HEY YOU THERE! IT'S FESTIVAL TONIGHT WHICH MEANS EVERYONE IN AND AROUND THE CITY IS ENTITLED TO THE HOSPITALITY OF THE EMPEROR!
I would have never been able to take over the ship if the lords had brought all their men with them...
ALRIGHT. BUT JUST THE WOMEN. YOU STAY DOWN THERE.

GOOD LUCK
THANKS WE'LL NEED IT
You've got 1 hour.

MMMMMRRRPH...
SLOW DOWN...BE GENTLE!
MMM.. THAT'S IT
OW! HAHA..I THOUGHT YOU SAID GEN.
AAAH

REMIND ME TO STAY ON YOUR GOOD SIDE.
JUST GET IN HERE.
JUST HURRY UP AND DEAL WITH THE OTHERS. MY GIRLS AREN'T WARRIORS, AND THESE SAILORS SMELL EVEN WORSE THAN YOU DO
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP GOOD LUCK.
JUST TRY NOT TO GET YOURSELF KILLED

WITH MY HAND GUIDING OUR ACTIONS, WE WILL RETURN SHIJIMA TO ITS RIGHTFUL GLORY, LEAVING OUR ENEMIES DESTROYED IN OUR WAKE. I SUMMONED ALL OF YOU HERE BECAUSE YOU EACH BRING
SURELY, YOU DON'T JUST EXPECT US TO LEGITIMIZE YOUR RULE FOR NOTHING - AFTER ALL, YOU CAN BARELY KEEP YOUR OWN PEOPLE FROM BOILING OVER INTO OPEN REVOLT
I ANTICIPATED SOME LACK OF SUPPORT IN THIS. I HAVE A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION PREPARED THAT MAY ALLAY SOME OF YOUR FEARS.
I AGREE. I WAS DISTURBED TO LEARN THAT MITSURA WAS MURDERED A SHORT TIME AGO AND THAT HIS KILLERS HAVE YET TO BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

I ASSUME MANY OF YOU WILL RECOGNIZE IYOORI'S FORMER CONSORT SHE IS THE LAST VESTIGE OF AUTHORITY IN THE ADASHI CLAN. WE CAPTURED HER A NIGHT BEFORE WITH A SCORE OF HER COMPANIONS. THEY'VE ALL SINCE BEEN EXECUTED OF COURSE--
--BUT I THOUGHT I MIGHT SAVE THIS ONE AS AN EXAMPLE FOR YOU ALL TO SEE.
KAMEKO!!!

GOYO! WAIT!
THIS IS A DIFFICULT SHOT ALDARAN. YELLING ISN'T MAKING IT ANY EASIER
I SAID DON'T SHOOT!
WHAT??? WHY IN THE NAME OF HEAVEN NOT? THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE!
KAZUO! CUT THE ANCHOR
CUT THE ANCHOR? ARE YOU MAD???
KER-CHING!

AS SOON AS YOU HAVE A SHOT GOYO, I WANT YOU TO WOUND ONE OF THE LORDS!
YOU'RE INSANE ALDARAN! THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON THIS ARROW IS GOING INTO
WOOSH

WE'RE NOT YOUR LAP DOGS GURAKA. YOU HAVE EVERYTHING TO GAIN FROM THIS LITTLE ARRANGEMENT WHILE WE HAVE EVERYTHING TO LOSE, I WILL SIGN NOTHING UNTIL
OUR SHIP IS MOVING.?
WHAT?
THOOP
AAARGGGH!!
TREACHERY!

THE NEXT MAN TO DRAW THEIR SWORD DIES. DON'T THEY TEACH YOU MEN ANY MANNERS OUT THERE IN THE PROVINCES?
WHAT DID I JUST SAY?

All I can think about as the boat nears the shore is, I hope this works. Goyo isn't liking the fact that we're straying from the original plan, but I [illegible] his help, and he's invested too much [illegible]...which is probably [illegible] him from trying to kill me right now.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE LORDS ARE DRAWING THEIR SWORDS?
MY MEN WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE PLANNED ALDARAN.
JUST TELL THEM TO HOLD OFF THE IMPERIALS AND BE READY TO PICK US UP.
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE PLANNED AS WELL ALDARAN.. THAT ARROW WAS MEANT FOR THE EMPEROR, A FRONTAL ASSAULT ON THE PALACE WAS DEFINITELY NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND.
WHAT I HAVE PLANNED WILL WORK EVEN BETTER...IF YOU HAD JUST KILLED GURAKAI YOU'D STILL HAVE TO TANGLE WITH THE OTHER LORDS FOR CONTROL. THIS WAY, WE GET THEM ALL. I'M GOING TO HAND YOU THE EMPIRE TONIGHT GOYO.
I NEVER SAID I WANTED IT
GET READY
A little bit of mistruth there... I could care less as long as he comes along...like I said.. I hope this works...

DEFEND THE EMPEROR AT ALL COSTS. WAIT UNTIL THEY'RE OFF THE SHIP AND THEN TAKE THEM!
KRAAKH!

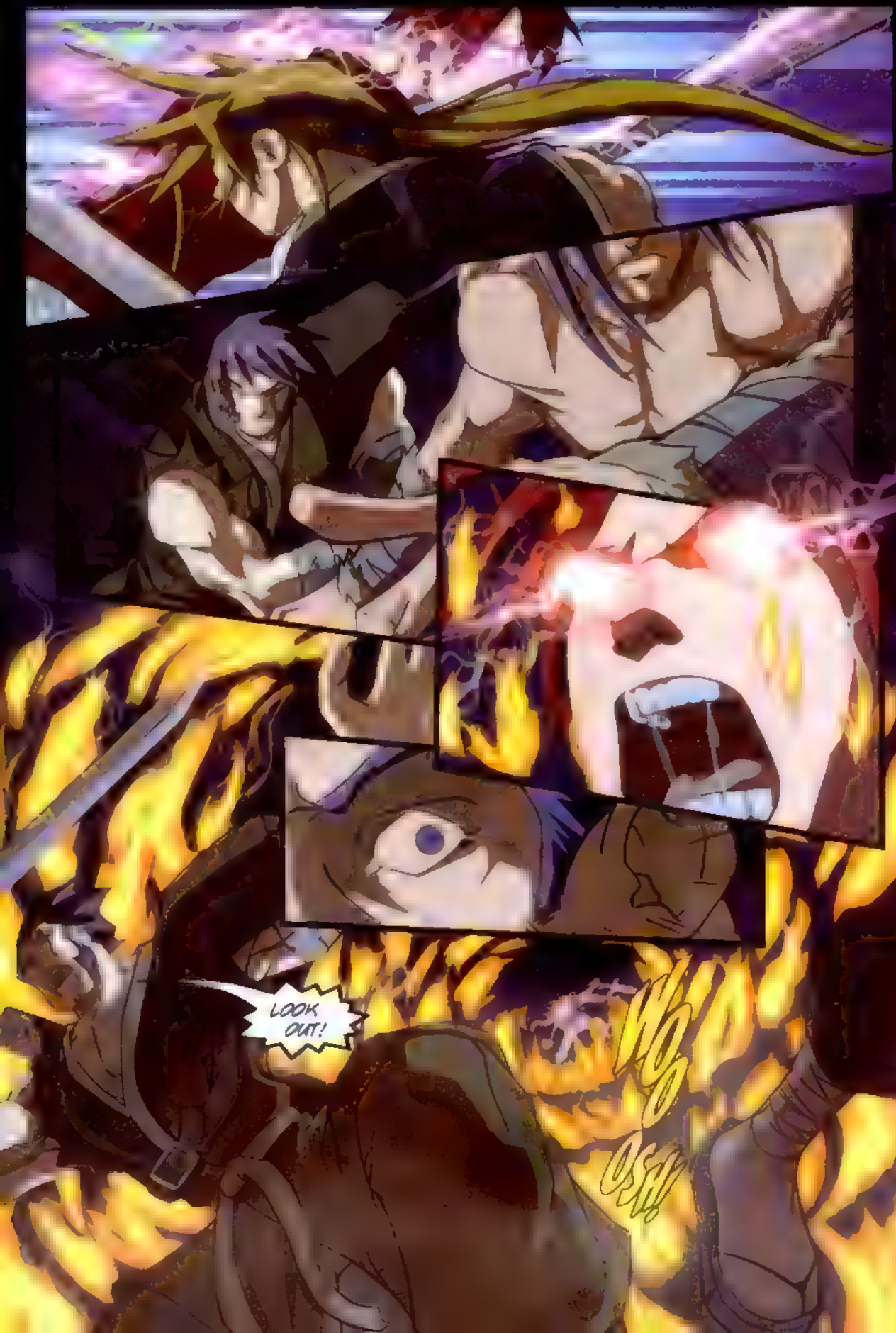
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK GET TO THE DOCKS
SKRAAK
FINISH THEM OFF QUICKLY WE HAVE TO GET TO THE EMPEROR BEFORE THE GARRISON CAN BE RECALLED!
DON'T BE INSULTING ALDARAN. I KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH COMMON FOOT SOLDIERS.
COME ON, THE PALACE ISN'T FAR

STAY HERE. MAKE SURE OUR LINE OF ESCAPE ISN'T COMPROMISED
WE SHOULD HAVE SEEN SOME RESISTANCE BY NOW.
HE ALREADY KNOWS SOMEONE IS COMING. MAYBE HE WANTS TO MEET US.
THEN WE'LL MAKE IT HIS LAST MISTAKE
1
WHOOM
#*&$
I SWEAR IT IS A MIRACLE YOU HAVEN'T DIED YET THE WAY YOU MOVE!

HOW CAN YOU BE SURE IT'S HIM? IF I WERE HIM, I WOULD HAVE BEEN GONE LONG AGO
THERE IS NO ONE ELSE. I'VE UNDERESTIMATED HIM TWICE ALREADY. I'LL DEAL WITH HIM PERSONALLY THIS TIME.
I SHOULD BE OUT IN THE STREETS...MAINTAINING ORDER. AS SOON AS NEWS OF THIS GETS OUT, THERE WILL BE OPEN REBELLION IN THE PROVINCES.
AND WHILE YOU ARE BUSY BUTCHERING PEASANTS, THIS OUTLAND RUFFIAN WILL BE DESTROYING . YOU'LL HAVE PEOPLE TO KILL SOON ENOUGH HAKARA, BUT NOT BEFORE ALDARAN AND HIS CO-CONSPIRATORS HAVE BEEN DEALT WITH.
WHASH!
BAH . YOU GIVE HIM TOO MUCH CREDIT. ALL HE'S SUCCEEDING IN DOING IS SPEEDING UP THE INEVITABLE.
CAREFUL HAKARA. IF YOU KEEP BUYING MY GIRLFRIEND DRINKS BEHIND MY BACK I'M GOING TO THINK YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL SOMETHING WITH HER

MY APOLOGIES
I'LL MAKE SURE I TAKE YOUR HEAD BEFORE YOU DIE SO THAT I CAN DEFILE HER IN FRONT OF YOU
YOU DISAPPOINT ME ALDARAN. PETTY INSULTS DO NOT BECOME A MEETING SUCH AS THIS. YOU'VE PLAYED QUITE THE GAME OF DECEPTION WITH ME SINCE YOUR RETURN. YOUR CUNNING IS PERHAPS EVEN A MATCH FOR MY OWN -- A PITY YOU CHOOSE A HOPELESS PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION AS YOUR ENDGAME
I TOLD YOU YOU SHOULD HAVE LET ME SHOOT HIM.

ENOUGH. YOU WILL FACE ME NOW ALDARAN, AND I WILL SHOW YOU HOW AN EMPEROR DEALS WITH HIS ENEMY. HAKARA, YOU ARE FREE TO DO WHAT YOU WILL WITH THE STRANGERS.
WHO DO I HAVE TO KILL TO GET SOME RESPECT AROUND HERE? EVEN IF WE PULL THIS OFF PEOPLE ARE GOING TO CALL US THOSE TWO STRANGERS WITH ALDARAN'
THE ETERNAL CURSE OF THE SIDEKICK I'M AFRAID
SIDEKICK? NOW I'M REALLY INSULTED
VRROOSH!
MAKE THAT DEAD SIDEKICK
AND DEAD EMPEROR


LOOK OUT!
WOOSH!

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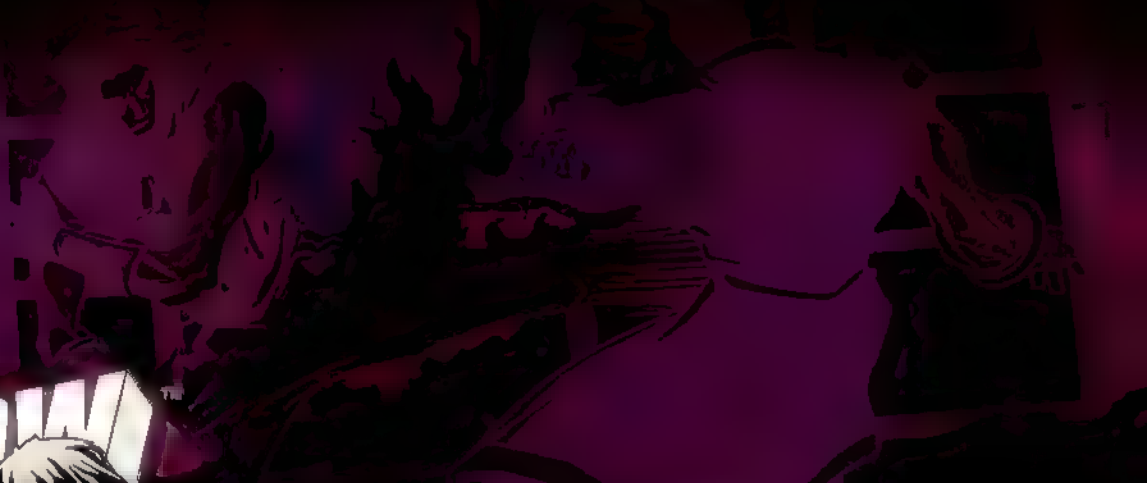

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This is usually the part where a defending fighter will take some sort of defensive posture, or state of readiness in preparation for an attack
Gurakai doesn't even move
He has a good reason to be
He moves so fast I don't even think of altering my strategy

Stars spray across my vision as a dull pain in the back of my head tells me I'm on the ground--
And then stars again as the voice tells me something that feels like ribs are being broken in a really bad way...
Every breath sends shards of pain through my head and my chest... which is good, because that punch didn't rupture my lungs...

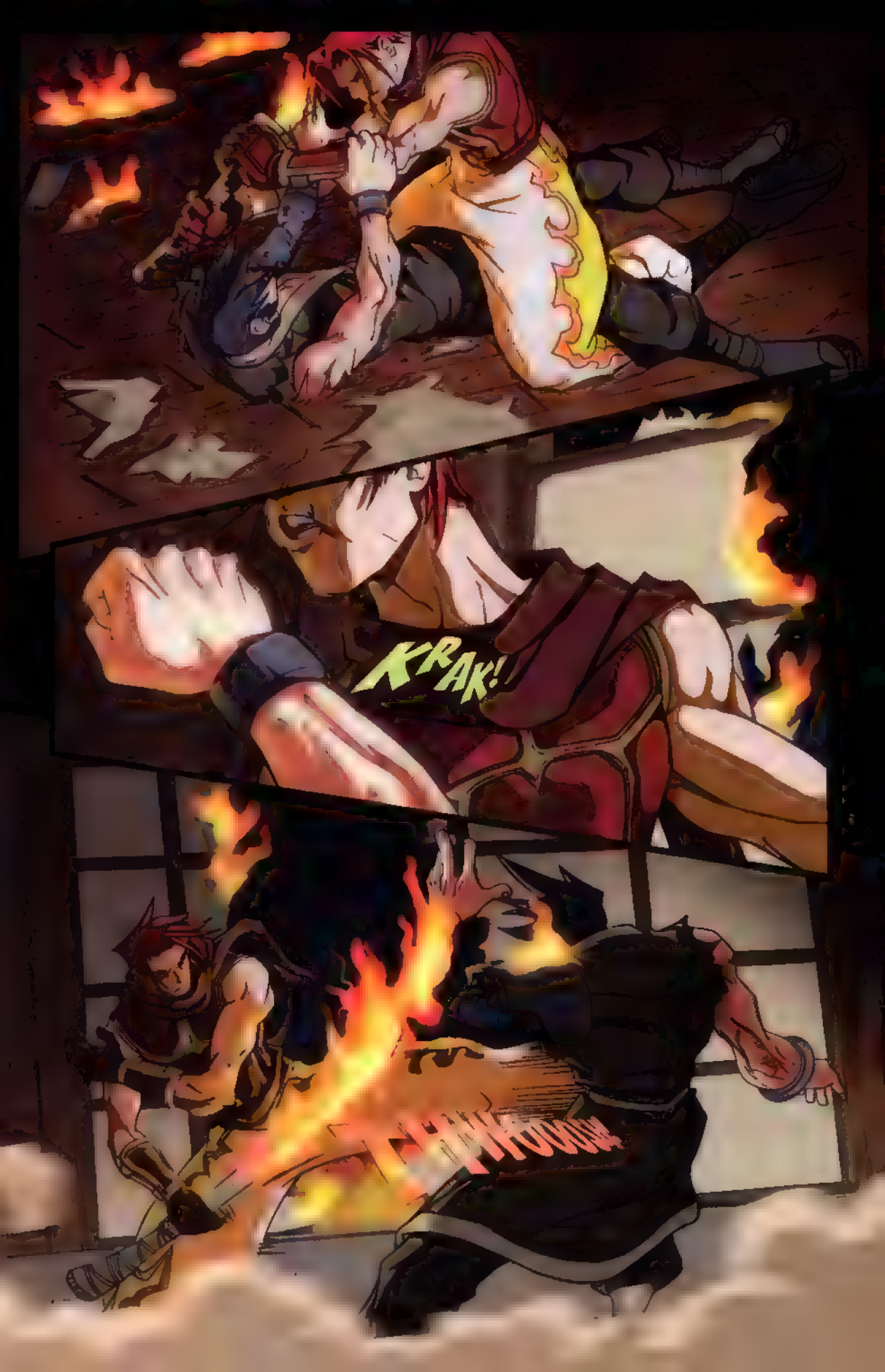
DISAPPOINTING I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE ONE WHO DEFEATED BOTH IKEDA AND MITSURA WOULD HAVE SOMETHING BETTER TO OFFER
Time for Plan B...
' LEAD WITH YOUR LEFT, FINISH WITH THE STOLEN BLADE. ' CAN YOUR TECHNIQUE EVER BE MORE THAN THAT?
THH-WAAKK!
I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA HOW YOU DEFEATED THE LIKES OF IKEDA AND MITSURA
SIMPLE.
THOOM!!
DIRTY TRICKS..
KKK-KKHHAK!

I don't know how many more times I'll be able to use the sword...
Hopefully I won't need to...
AL-ALDARAN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHERE AM I?
DON'T TRY TO TALK... WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE
CAN YOU WALK?
I THINK SO
STAY WHERE YOU ARE ALDARAN
WE'RE NOT FINISHED YET

Meanwhile...
WHERE IS THE BOAT SUPPOSED TO MEET US?
I'VE LOST TRACK.. SORRY I'M A LITTLE BIT TOO BUSY STAYING ALIVE
LOOK OUT!
KRASH!
REALLY. IT'S UNBECOMING OF THE TWO OF YOU TO BE SO COWARDLY. BY THE TIME I'VE FINALLY KILLED YOU THE ENTIRE CITY WILL BE AFLAME.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD STOP SETTING EVERYTHING ON FIRE INSTEAD
AND MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST BURN LIKE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO

FWWOOSH!

GOYO! LOOK OUT!
THUP!


KRAK!

GOODBYE GOYO...
GOODBYE HAKARA...
WHAT?

AAAAAA!!

KAZUO!!!
NOW!!!!
NO!
WAIT!!!

SKKUURCH!!
YEEEEAAARRGGGGLLLGLGGGG...
KLNK!

WE ACTUALLY DID IT...
I DON'T THINK HE CAN BELIEVE IT EITHER.
WE SHOULD GET BACK TO THE PALACE.
AGREED...

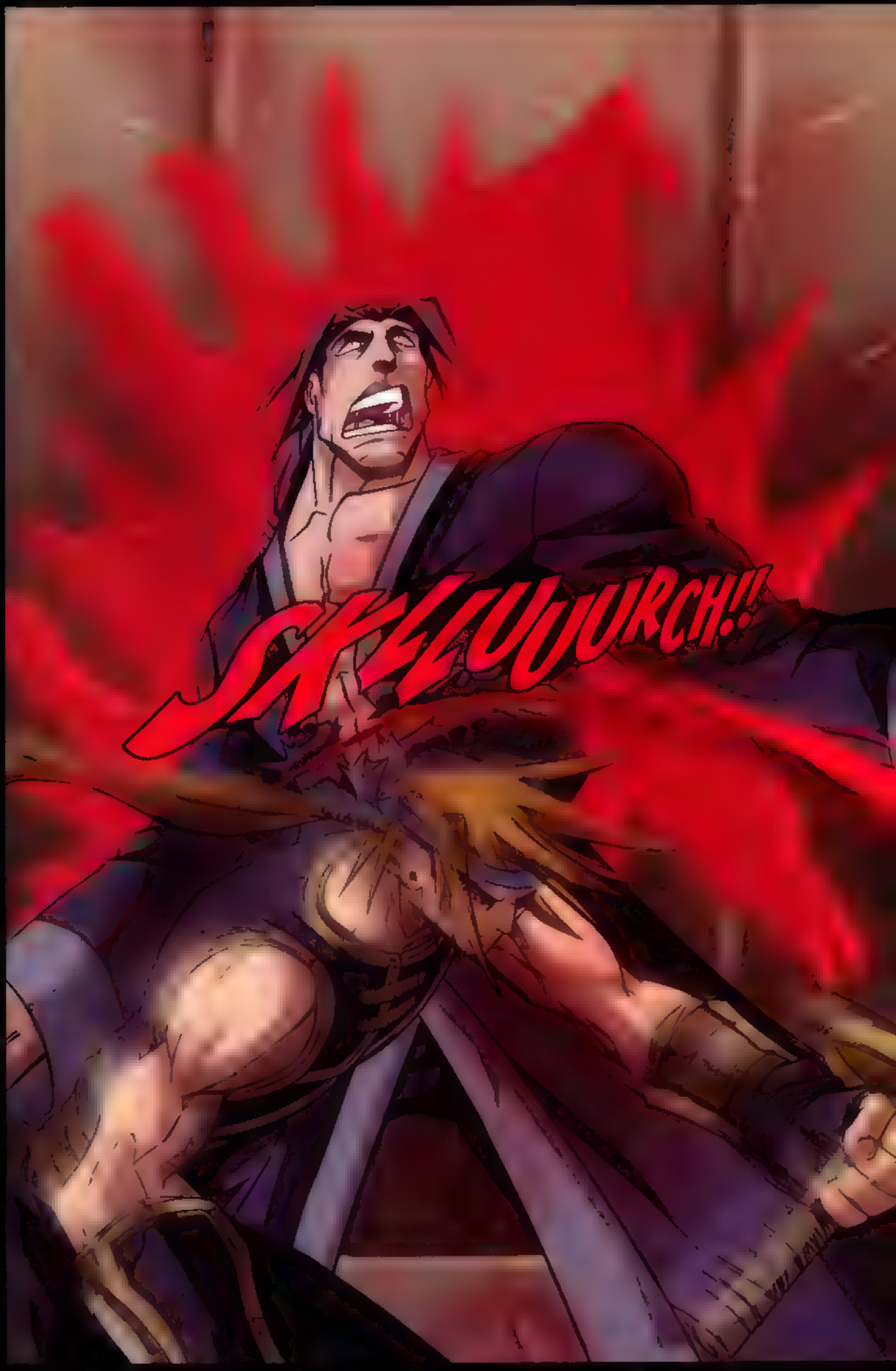
STILL HAVE SOME FIGHT LEFT?
THWAAK!
IF YOUR TECHNIQUE WASN'T SO POOR I'D ALMOST BE IMPRESSED.
ALDARAN!
IF YOU DIDN'T TALK SO DAMN MUCH THIS WOULD BE OVER ALREADY

KRAAAK!
YEEGH!
THWAAK!

IT'S OVER ALDARAN
GLLLGGG!
...*
TELL ME ALDARAN, BEFORE YOU DIE, DO YOU FIND YOURSELF WONDERING HOW YOU PROPOSED TO DEFEAT ME IN SINGLE COMBAT IN THE FIRST PLACE?
GLLG.. ALREADY...TOLD YOU...DIRTY.... TRICKS.
?

AAAAH!
SLAAASH!
GASP!*

KAMEKO! GET DOWN!
SHING!!


SKUUURCH!!

THOOOSH!!

ALDARAN!
HUFF HUFF... YOU... JUST... CAN'T... STAY AWAY FROM TROUBLE CAN YOU...?
ALDARAN!
ALDARAN... I...

YOU'RE A LITTLE LATE...
WELL... I'D HAVE TO HAVE SEEN THIS IN PERSON TO BELIEVE IT... YOU ACTUALLY DID IT!
BARELY...
WHAT NOW THEN? GURAKAI KILLED THE OTHER LORDS... AND YOU'VE KILLED GURAKAI.. SHIDIMA IS LEADERLESS...
I'M DONE GOYO. WHATEVER'S LEFT OF THIS STINKING COUNTRY, YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS CAN HAVE IT. JUST LEAVE KAMEKO AND I OUT OF IT...
SO YOU REALLY WERE JUST PLANNING TO HAND ME THE EMPIRE AFTER THIS WAS OVER? YOU'RE AN INTERESTING MAN ALDARAN. IF FATE SMILES ON US BOTH, WE'LL NEVER MEET AGAIN AFTER THIS...
ALDARAN..?

The entire city is burning. It might very well burn to the ground before the night is out. A lot of people died tonight. Somehow I managed to make it out alive-alive and more.
The emperor is dead, along with all the other noble lords. The people are free. But just as easily I know it could happen all over again tomorrow.
A long time ago Kameko asked me what I was fighting for... I didn't have an answer for her until now.
I don't want a war to fight, or an entire world to save, all I need is to protect what I've got right in front of me, and the willingness to tear the entire world apart to do it...
The End Of Shidima.